WARREN MAGAZINE

CREEPY #92

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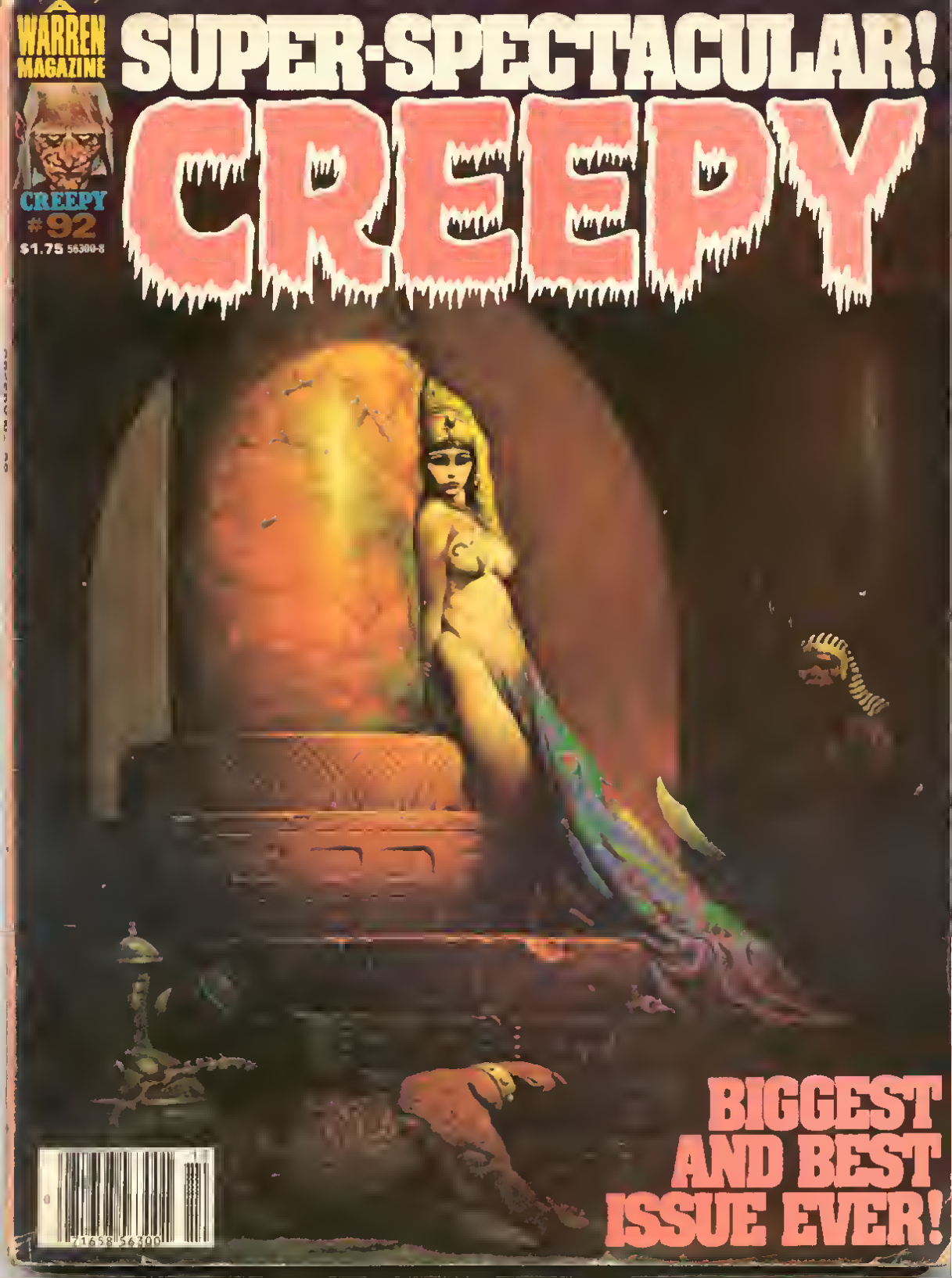
CREEPY



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"Bowser" was a cute little pet . . . dog? No sir, Sawser ate dogs for snacks and he ate lots of other things as well. A shaggy "Thing" story drawn by the amazing Rich Corben. One by one young men were discovered in the streets as shriveled hulks. The only clue linking the deaths together was "The Succubus Stone." A detective thriller with a frightening ending! Then Vampirella and Pendragon attend the funeral of an old friend of Pandy's and are told there is no body in the grave. To compound the enigma they meet "The Corpse With The Missing Mind!" Here is one of Vampirella's most bizarre episodes. In "The Mummy and an End" we come to the final story of the well-known mummy saga. Learn how an incredibly evil man enters the body of the powerful mummy to gain revenge on those who wronged him. This is how it is all resolved. In "Deja Vu" a beautiful young girl is being treated by a hypnotist. In a trance she reveals a family curse destined to haunt her in the present time. A different sort of curse is unleashed by "The Demons of Father Pain." These hideous creatures murder and steal but for a worthy cause. It is not "A Spirit" but "The Spirit" who is created when private detective Denny Colt is killed. Read about his fantastic origin in this exciting tale by Will Eisner. Concluding the issue is "In Deep", an ironic epic of love, determination and tragedy on the high seas. Revealed by the poetic prose of Grace Jones and illustrated by the almost three dimensional art of Richard Corben this prize winning story will stay with you long after you close the book. If the impressive line up of classical graphics and beautifully told tales isn't enough to make you want to rush in your order then heed the following warning: SUPPLY IS LIMITED! Order! COMIX INTERNATIONAL No. 5 #1C15/$2.95 Don't dare miss them!

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CREEPY®

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Dear Uncle Creepy...

I did it again! I stretched my meager allowance enough to buy CREEPY #89 and EERIE #84 Needless to say both were magnificent!

Frank Frazetta outdid himself on the covers even if they were reprint

"The Windmill" was interesting I would like to see more of **Leo Duranona's** work

You constantly delight me by printing **John Severin** stories His detail and expression make me feel like I'm there He and **Bill DuBay** are a great team What really impressed me was the factual accuracy **DuBay** must've done a lot of research You should use true-life incidents more often!

BRIAN GIBSON
Chehalis, Wash

CREEPY #90 was a curious anthology of stories so diverse and conflicting that they clashed almost physically

"Warrior on the Edge of Forever" was a cute foray into overly familiar territory because of the cuteness, it almost worked

"The Wash-Out" was just that The problem with many early stories in EC was that to make the ending a surprise things were thrown in offhandedly without a prior suggestion on the writer's part Like many readers I feel cheated by this device

I like to anticipate what's coming and be prepared to accept it as a logical consequence of the story, not be tricked into settling for something as gimmicky as a twist ending I felt that **Jones** did not give me enough clues!

"The Search" was good **McKenzie** along with good **Infantino** and **Mayo**. What more could I ask?

"Please Save Our Children" was well done but a bit heavy-handed The moral was drummed in a bit too often It became more repititious than relevant

"The Sacrifice" brought back **Aureleon** who doesn't appear nearly enough for my liking He's one of the finest artists ever to appear in comics and his job here's as exciting as ever

I love stories about grisly dolls, and the opening page of "Dollie" warmed my heart immediately So did the story that followed

The concluding observation impressed me It was such a simple anagram, I was surprised I'd never realized it before! Kudos to **Roger McKenzie** on this one!

The **Enrich** cover was striking but didn't do justice to the beautiful ugliness of that damned little doll!

ERNIE WEISS
Miami, Fla.

CREEPY #88 was sort of a mixed bag It had some very good tales and some mediocre ones

The best, no doubt, was "Do You Believe in Sinsigs? Very touching indeed **Luis Bermejo**, conceivably is the best artist to appear in a **Warren** magazine and his collaboration with **Gerry Boudraau** was a masterpiece, in storytelling and art

As for the rest

"Castles Made of Sand" wasn't very truthful "Fang for Fang" was below mediocre and "Temple of Seilos" was a disaster "Second Childhood" was a good surprise! **Bruce Jones** story was lovely and **Ramon Torrents** artwork fine

FOKION BOUKLIS
Thessaloniki, Greece

I've been collecting comics for a long time and I must comment on a superb CREEPY #90 The first story left much to be desired especially the newspaper bit, but it had a few good points

"Wash-out" reminded me of a "Twilight Zone episode! The story never gave away the ending prematurely

A connoisseur of vampire tales like myself went insane over "The Search" I had to read it twice to figure out that Sonya was not left alive But it was worth it!

The artwork was fabulous and the story one of the best vampire tales ever!

One minor criticism, however If you're going to change one into a bat, you should do away with his shadow as well

"The Sacrifice" was short and sweet a superb story!

The cover was one of the best ever, and the story that went along with it was a classic too good for words!

GREG STEPHENS
Westchester, N.Y.

I realize the following request is unusual and maybe premature, but before you know it, the 100th issue of CREEPY will be published and that momentous occasion requires something special I'd like to see new material drawn by the early artists a cover by **Frazetta**, and inside stories by **Alex Toth, Neal Adams, Reed Crandall, Billy Graham, Jeff Jones, Angelo Torres, Johnny Craig, Steve Ditko, Joe Orlando, Jerry Grandenetti, Dan Adkins, Gray Morrow** etc!

This is not to slight your present staff, but there's something appealing about the early issues and bringing back the old artists would be a superb way of commemorating CREEPY #100!

DANIEL GAVIN
Flemington N Y

Issue #90 is one of your best yet! Warrior on the Edge of Forever' was a little hard to understand, but **Jose Ortiz** artwork was fantastic!

My favorite was 'Dollie"! The plot was superb and the artwork gripping

Also I liked the cover The little girl looks like my sister

DAN SMITH
Topanga, Calif

Without the fang marks I hope, Dan!

CREEPY #90 was a pretty good issue Not only were the majority of stories above average but even the duds were better than duds usually are

Starting with the failures "The Sacrifice" and "Dollie" shared the same flaw The basic ideas were sound, but after presenting them, the writers did nothing with them **Jose Toutain** settled for a purely conventional ending, while **Roger McKenzie's** had no ending at all I'd have liked to see each theme more thoroughly developed

Bill DuBay's "Please Save the Children" was well thought out The denoument was a little hard to take but was handled with such skill, it didn't matter The only fault lay with **Martin Salvador's** art it failed to get a grip on the right mood, though it wasn't bad enough to detract from the story

"The Search," **McKenzie's** other offering might have been just another vampire story but skillful plotting and good pacing set it above the ordinary Major credit must go to the team of **Carmine Infantino** and **G Mayo**, who again turned out a masterful collaboration Perhaps they could be persuaded to work together on an entire special issue

Another contributor who deserves an issue to himself is **Bruce Jones** He again proved his worth in "The Wash Out" One could say it's nothing more than a updated EC script but when it is that well written, who cares? Among other things, **Jones** writes the best dialogue in comics today and **Leo Duranona's** art helped considerably

Also fine was 'Warrior on the Edge of Forever" one of the best **DuBay/Ortiz** combinations yet The reincarnation theme was reminiscent of 'Goodbye Mr Lincoln" Incorporating newspaper pages allowed events to be telescoped without interrupting the story flow All in all it had the makings of a classic

Congratulations also to **Enrich** His cover this issue was simple and effective

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Ohio

More than any other single issue of CREEPY #89 offered the reader serious food for thought Ironically the issue considered as a whole, seemed to refute the **Joe Brancatelli** column within it

CREEPY #89 showed that non-Code stories are not necessarily gruesome tasteless violent or pornographic and more importantly that quality is achieved under conditions of artistic freedom Censorship breeds mediocrity, and the industry would do better to stand up to the wave of repression and censorship than to acquiesce into blandness

GEORGE LDWELL
Memphis, Tenn

I've never been fond of war stories The other comics which tried to squeeze horror stories into a war setting were about as exciting as oatmeal So I was astounded when CREEPY #90 turned out to be the highlight of my reading that month!

"Blood Brothers" was beautifully narrated I suspected Voper of everything from vampirism to ghoulishness but the ending was something I'd never even considered **Bruce Jones** is a clever lad!

"The Windmill" had a fairytale quality that added a great deal to a basically uninteresting idea It was powerful in its simplicity

"Angel of Jaipur" by **Bill DuBay** and **John Severin** was a masterfully crafted classical piece worthy of 'literature status as well as art"

"The Hungry Dragon" is in my opinion **Nick Cuti's** best-piece for **Warren** to date, and a highpoint of the issue The **Carmine Infantino/Alex Nino** pairing is stunning! Their's among the most brilliant comic art published today

"The Door Gunner" was a real surprise to me I found **Cary Bates** previous **Warren** submissions disappointing Teamed with **Larry Hama**, he's back on target and this one's a winner!

"Coogan's Army" was a letdown but a standard like the one set by the three previous stories that ish made the competition heavier than usual

All considered well done!

MICHAEL MESSIER
Carmel, Calif

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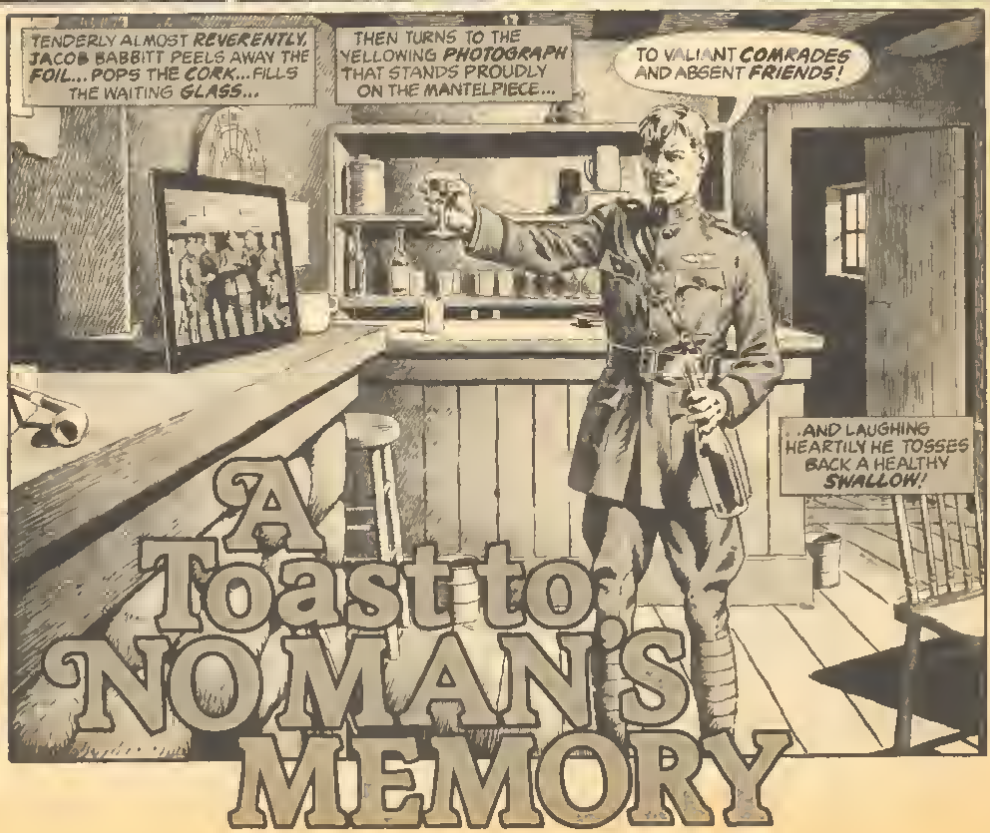
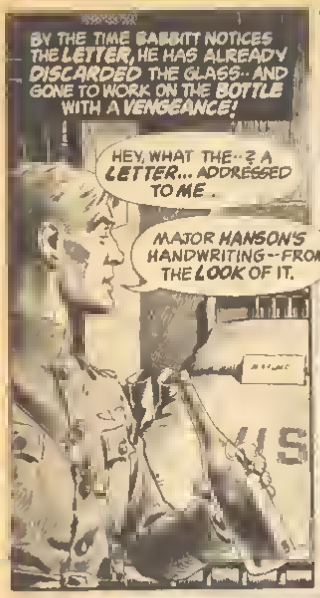
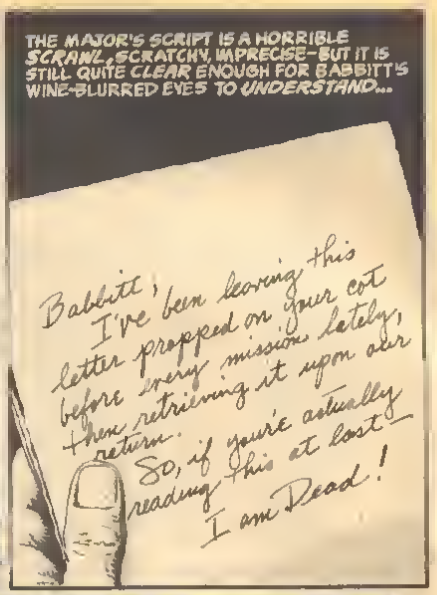


A Toast to NO MAN'S MEMORY

STORY LEN WEIN/ART: JOHN SEVERIN

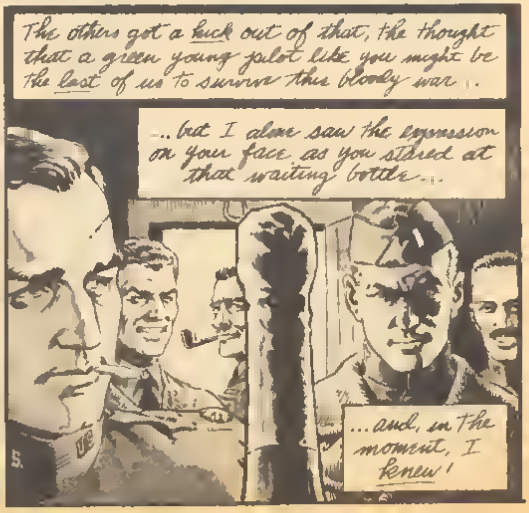

BY THE TIME BABBITT NOTICES THE LETTER, HE HAS ALREADY DISCARDED THE GLASS.. AND GONE TO WORK ON THE BOTTLE WITH A VENGEANCE!
HEY, WHAT THE..? A LETTER... ADDRESSED TO ME.
MAJOR HANSON'S HANDWRITING--FROM THE LOOK OF IT.

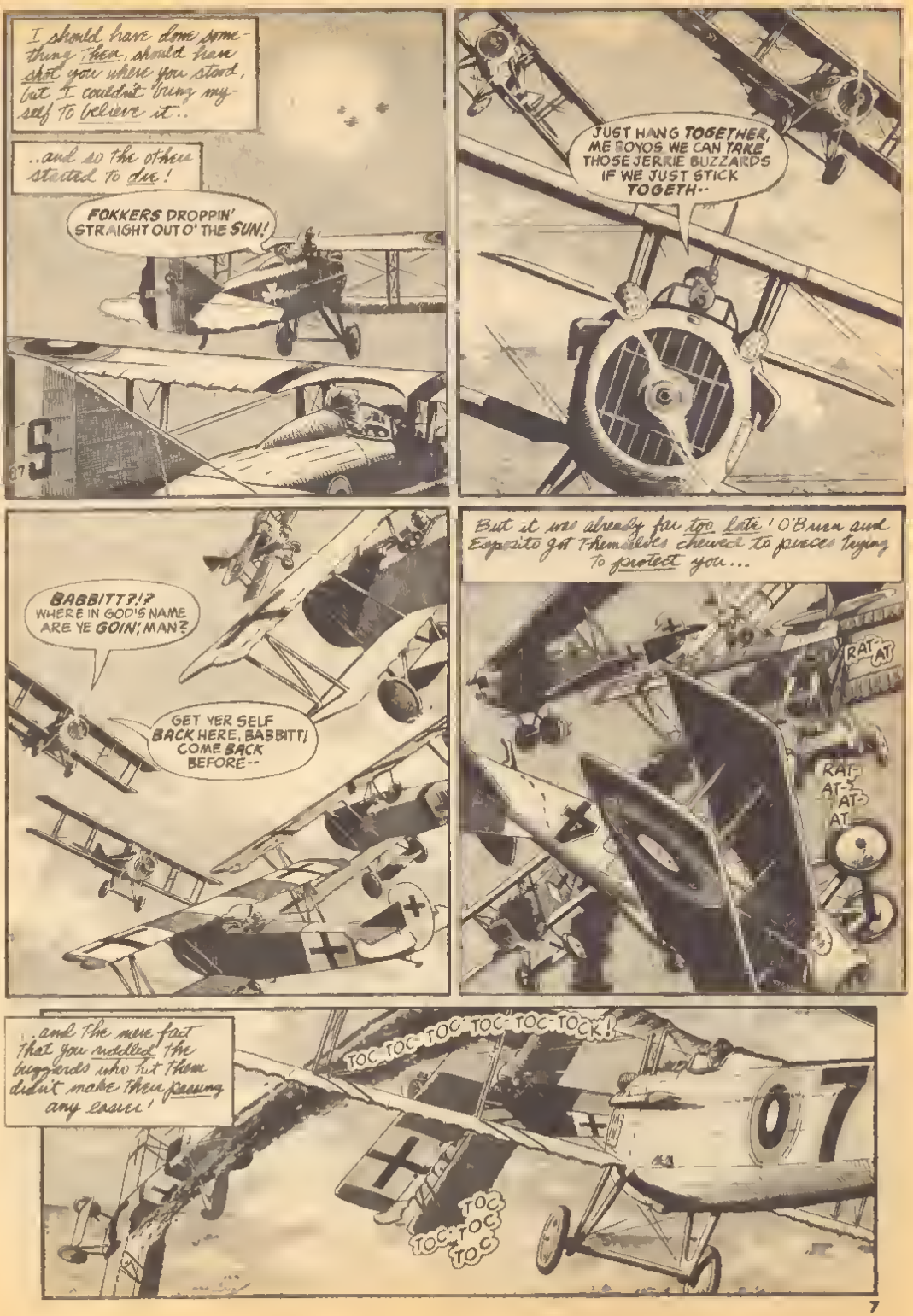
ALWAYS HAD TO GET IN THE LAST WORD, DIDN'T YOU, MAJOR? WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY THIS TIME...
...SINCE IT'S THE LAST THING YOU'LL EVER SAY!


THE MAJOR'S SCRIPT IS A HORRIBLE SCRAWL, SCRATCHY, IMPRECISE—BUT IT IS STILL QUITE CLEAR ENOUGH FOR BABBITT'S WINE-BLURRED EYES TO UNDERSTAND...
Babbitt, I've been leaving this letter propped on your cot before every mission lately, then retrieving it upon our return. So, if you're actually reading this at last— I am Dead!

I knew you would be the last one of us left, kid... knew it since that day those many months ago...
..THEN IT'S SETTLED, RIGHT? WE LEAVE THIS BOTTLE ON THE MANTEL...
...AND THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF THIS SQUADRON... WHOEVER HE IS... WILL USE IT TO DRINK A FINAL TOAST TO THE MEMORY OF THE REST!

THAT INCLUDES YOU, GREEN APPLE! IF IT TURNS OUT YOU'RE THE LAST ONE LEFT, I EXPECT A TOAST TO DO THE REST OF US PROUD!
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T TALK LIKE THAT, MAJOR. I DONT KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT THE REST OF YOU GUYS!


The others got a kick out of that, the thought that a green young pilot like you might be the last of us to survive this bloody war...
...but I alone saw the expression on your face as you stared at that waiting bottle...
...and, in the moment, I knew!


I should have done something then, should have shot you where you stood, but I couldn't bring myself to believe it..
..and so the others started to die!
FOKKERS DROPPIN' STRAIGHT OUT O' THE SUN!
JUST HANG TOGETHER, ME BOYOS WE CAN TAKE THOSE JERRIE BUZZARDS IF WE JUST STICK TOGETH--
BABBITT?!? WHERE IN GOD'S NAME ARE YE GOIN', MAN?
GET YER SELF BACK HERE, BABBITT! COME BACK BEFORE--
But it was already far too late! O'Brien and Esposito got themselves chewed to pieces trying to protect you...
RAT-AT
RAT-AT-AT-AT
..and the mere fact that you rattled the buggers who hit them didn't make their passing any easier!
TOC-TOC-TOC-TOC-TOC-TOC!
TOC-TOC-TOC
07

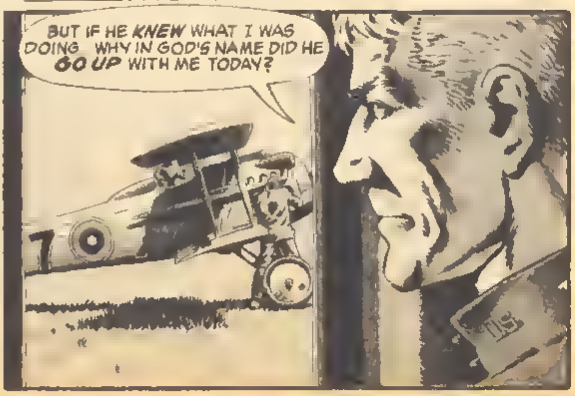
The other men thought you were some sort of hero for bringing back what was left of O'Brien and Esposito, and for downing those three Huns..

but, God help me, I knew better!

Oh, I'll admit you were clever enough never making it obvious what you were doing.

...never letting the others realize you were setting them up to catch the bullets that were meant for you...

...so they just kept on dying. And you kept coming that much closer to the blasted bottle which had become the only thing that mattered in your life!



"WHY DID HE PUT HIMSELF SQUARE ON THE BULLSEYE?"

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE CAN'T WAIT FOR REINFORCEMENTS, MAJOR HANSON!

THERE'S SIMPLY NO TIME, BABBITT! THE HUNS ARE PLANNING TO LAUNCH A MAJOR OFFENSIVE...

...AND IT'S UP TO US TO DESTROY THE TRAIN THAT'S BRINGING THEM SUPPLIES!

"ALL MY PROTESTS DIDN'T COUNT FOR A THING! HANSON THREATENED TO HAVE ME COURT-MARSHALLED IF I DIDN'T OBEY ORDERS.

"DAMN THE MAN! HE BROUGHT WHAT HAPPENED NEXT UPON HIMSELF!"

THERE SHE IS, BABBITT! LET'S TAKE THAT STEEL SERPENT--NOW!!

"BUT EVEN AS WE DOVE OUR SPADS STRAIGHT FOR THE SUPPLY TRAIN'S HEART..."

SWEET MOTHER OF GOD! THEY HAD AN A.A. GUN HIDDEN ON BOARD!

"I WAS ALREADY CLAWING FOR THE CLOUDS WHEN THE HENNIES OPENED FIRE...

PWHOM!

PWHOM!

"...BUT THAT BLASTED HANSON JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP!

"HE KEPT HAMMERING AWAY AT THAT GODDAMN TRAIN, UNTIL AT LAST HE HIT SOMETHING VITAL..

RAT-AT-AT-AT-AT-AT-AT!

...AND LIT UP THE WHOLE DAMN SKY WITH THE FIRES OF HELL!

BWA-DOOM!

"IT WAS ALMOST ALL OVER RIGHT THEN! A FOKKER SUDDENLY CAME SCREAMING OUT OF THE CLOUDS, HANSON'S STRAINING SPAD CAUGHT SQUARE IN ITS CROSSHAIRS...
TOC-TOC-TOC-TOC-TOCK!
"GOD ALONE KNOWS WHAT POSSESSED ME TO COME TO HANSON'S AID THEN, WHEN I COULD HAVE STAYED HIDDEN IN THE CLOUDBANK AND PUT AN END TO MY PROBLEMS FOREVER...
RAT-AT-AT-AT-AT!
INSTEAD, I CUT LOOSE ON THE HENNIE PLANE...
...AND SENT IT DOWN IN FLAMES!
"I'VE NEVER REGRETTED AN ACTION MORE IN MY LIFE!"
SAVING MY HIDE WON'T SAVE YOURS, BABBITT! YOU'LL STILL FACE A COURT-MARSHALL WHEN WE GET BACK!
YOU DESERTED ME UNDER FIRE, MISTER, JUST AS YOU DESERTED ALL THE REST, AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO PAY!
"FOR A SECOND OR TWO, I CONSIDERED WHAT HANSON HAD SAID. . A TRIAL, WITH A SURE PRISON TERM, IF NOT A FIRING SQUAD... WAITING AT THE END!
"GOD, THERE WAS JUST NO WAY I COULD FACE THAT...
...NOT WHEN THERE WAS SUCH A SIMPLE ALTERNATIVE!"
AARRGGHH!
BHUD-UD-UD-UD-AH!
WHUMP!
"IT WAS HANSON'S OWN FAULT THAT HE DIED. HE JUST DIDN'T LEAVE ME ANY CHOICE!

"NOBODY HAD SEEN ME SHOOT DOWN THE MAJOR. WHEN THEY ASKED I FIGURED I COULD TELL THEM THE FOKKER DID IT BEFORE I GOT HIM!

"BUT AT THAT MOMENT, I WASN'T REALLY ALL THAT WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE!

"I DIDN'T REALLY GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ANYTHING, IN FACT, EXCEPT THE PRIZE I HAD SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR."

IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW, YOU BRIGHT, BIG, BEAUTIFUL BOTTLE YOU!

AND I'LL TELL YOU BABY--YOU'D BETTER TASTE AS GOOD AS YOU LOOK!

"AND IT DOES... GOD, IT TASTES SO SWEET!"

BUT I PROMISED YOU ALL A TOAST AND I'M A MAN OF MY WORD!

SO HERE'S TO YOU MAJOR HANSON. YOU STUPID SON-OF-A-GUN!

AND HERE'S TO ALL THE REST OF YOU. MAY YOUR BONES ALL BURN IN HELL!

BUT, BEST OF ALL, HERE'S TO JACOB BABBITT...

...BECAUSE...
..HE..
.. DESERVES...
...IT...
Yeah, Babbitt, I knew you'd be the last of us— I knew you'd cheat and lie and kill to make sure of it— just as I know you'll kill me when the time comes—
Which is why I borrowed a hypodermic syringe from the infirmary last night —
And injected your precious bottle full of Poison!!!

END

THE COMIC BOOKS

By Joe Brancatelli

It's time to report on the recently concluded "Rites of Spring," that unavoidable period in every business year when two-man corporation and zillion-dollar conglomerate alike must communicate with their shareholders, those lowly minions who actually own the company

Much as they seem to despise it, the solons who control American business are legally bound to certain rituals during this time To wit

- The Chairman of Board must conduct the company's annual meeting—and you never see a 200-grand-a-year executive in quite so much pain as when he's ducking a question from a 65-year-old grandmother from Ohio whose portfolio consists of three shares
- The company must publish an annual report detailing the organization's financial operations for the previous year—and you never see quite so many thousands of dollars spent on full-color photography, glossy paper and flowery hit unenlightening prose as you do during annual-report time

The Rites of Spring is when business, and the men who run it, are supposed to come clean But being the irretrivably secretive, covert and utterly unresponsive rascals that they are, however, businessmen usually conduct the Rites in the least revealing and most self-serving way possible Warner Communications, Inc —DC's parent conglomerate —and Cadence Industries Corp —Marvel's parent—are no exceptions, of course, and despite every Rite of Spring claim to the contrary, running a comic-book company was no cake walk in 1976

It was, in fact, what the Wall Street people call a "mixed" year

First the good news Both companies said corporate sales and profits reached record levels in the fiscal year ending December 31, 1976

The Warner juggernaut, which includes Warner/Atlantic/Asylum/Elektra records, Warner TV and movies, *Mad*, Independent News, Warner Books, Atari electronic games and the New York Cosmos soccer club as well as DC, registered sales of $823 7 million, up 23 per cent from 1975's $669.7 million Net profit from continuing operations rose 22 per cent to $61 2 million from $50 1 million in 1975

At Cadence, a much smaller firm which encompasses Curtis Circulation Magazine Management, Hudson Pharmaceuticals, U S Pencil, Saxon Theatres and Alexander Film Services as well as Marvel, 1976 sales were $90 4 million, 3 per cent higher than 1975's $88 1 million Net profit from continuing operations was $1 88 million in 1976, a 60 per cent increase over 1975's $1.18 million

Warner's publishing group—DC, *Mad*, Independent and Warner Books —showed a 20 per cent rise in domestic sales to $48.4 million in 1976 as compared to 1975's $40 2 million Better yet, the division generated a $5 5 million profit before taxes in 1976, considerably better than the $4 6 and $4.9 million losses in the last two years

At Cadence, the publishing division of Curtis, Marvel, Magazine Management and three subscription services had a 5 per cent sales rise in 1976, but no profit figures were released Moreover, the publishing division biked its contribution to total profits to 86 per cent, considerably better than 1975's 67 per cent

But now the bad news

While the Warner annual report bubbled enthusiastically about the performances of *Mad*, Independent and Warner Books—not to mention the lush profits turned by television, movie, record, cable TV and the electronic games divisions —it had nothing of financial substance to say about DC's sales and profits in 1976 Despite lusty applause for the rest of the publishing group, DC was only credited with an ability to "delight readers"—and the corporate hope that the 1977 "sales potential for comic books" would improve because of the impending *Superman* movie and the new dollar-sized books

D.C. and Marvel: Running a comic-book company in 1976 was no cake walk.

In the warped world of annual reports, where hysteria equals profitability and "sales potential" of another year equals poor performance, Warner's treatment of DC is tantamount to an admission of near disaster Since Warner isn't legally required to report sales and profits of each individual group, no one knows exactly how bad the situation is. Keep in mind, however, that one DC war book sold only 100,000 copies per month in 1976 and that's surely something of a modern-day low

It's also of interest to note that while Warner is financially and corporately stronger than Cadence—about 30 times more profitable and nine times as large in sales volume—its publishing division is much less important to the company than Marvel/Curtis/Magazine Management is to Cadence Where as Warner Publishing accounts for only 6 per cent of total Warner sales and 9 per cent of Warner's total profits, Marvel et al has considerably more attractive contributions of 52 per cent of Cadence sales and 86 per cent of Cadence profits. Cadence, therefore, is *primarily* a publishing concern, while Warner's involvement—and continued interest—in periodicals could only be termed "marginal"

One other point to keep in mind about Warner vis-a-vis Cadence Warner Publishing is only a million or so dollars larger than Cadence Publishing despite the dwarfing size of the Warner conglomerate The companies are fiscally identical competitors in publishing circles

At Cadence, meanwhile, board chairman Sheldon Feinberg took pains to mention Marvel's "turn around" and "significant gains" in 1976 in his letter to the stockholders What he didn't say, however, was that the improvements were apparently *not* in newsstand sales, the lack of which had been vexing the House of Ideas in 1975 Explaining the division's sterling financial status, Cadence credited higher sales at Curtis, but mentioned only "increases in cover prices royalty income and a lower rate of returns" at Marvel

In understandable terms, whatever improvements were made at Marvel came by virtue of the fact that they raised comic prices, made additional non-comic-book sales (to newspaper syndicates, TV and movies), cut printing costs by lowering the print runs and subsequently had less books returned unsold since less were printed in the first place Sales, Cadence clearly implied by omission, *did not* improve significantly, if at all That is especially interesting since Cadence had been publicly admitting that sales in 1975 were slumping. It also indicates the company decided to print less comics in 1976 rather than trying to sell more

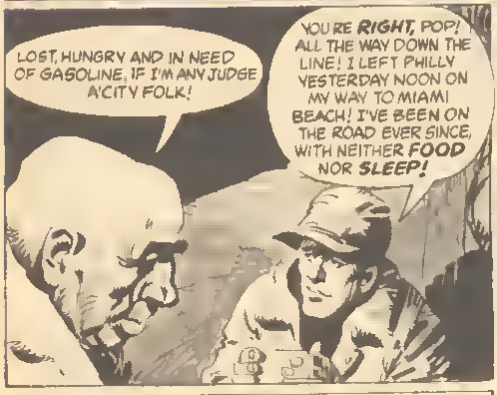
The opinions expressed on this page are exclusively those of Mr Brancatelli As such, they may not reflect the thinking of Warren Publishing Company's management or employees.

Mrs. Sludge and the Pickled Octopus Raid

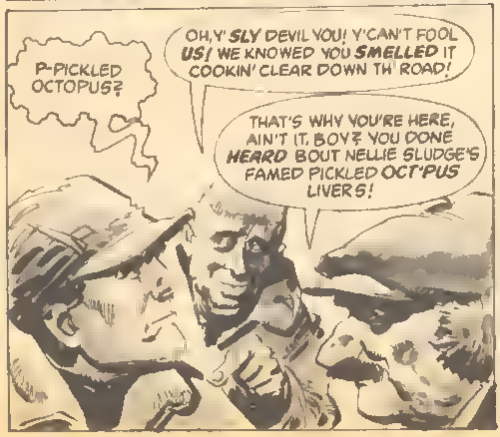
STORY BILL DuBAY/ART LUIS BERMEJO

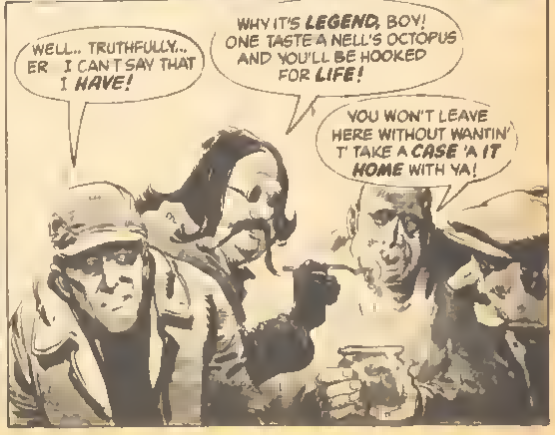
THANK YOU, MAAM! IT'S JUST WHAT I NEED TO BRING ME BACK TO LIFE!
LEMME GUESS, STRANGER ! EITHER YOU'RE A TRAVELLIN' SALESMAN GOIN DOOR'T DOOR PEDDLIN' WINTER UNDERWEAR
OR YOU'RE LOST!

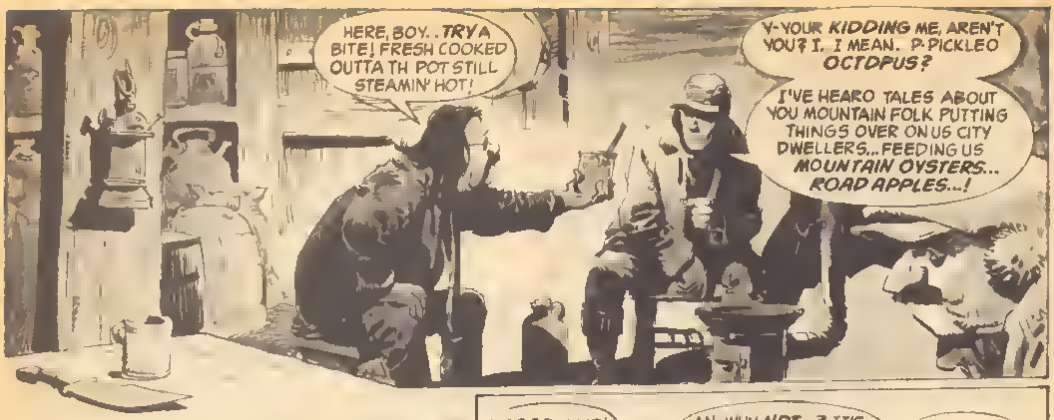
YOU HIT IT ON THE HEAD, GRANDPAW!
HAW! HAW! I KNEW IT! I'LL TAKE ONE PAIR— SIZE FORTY-FOUR!
NO, PHINNEAS, I THINK HE MEANS HE'S LOST!

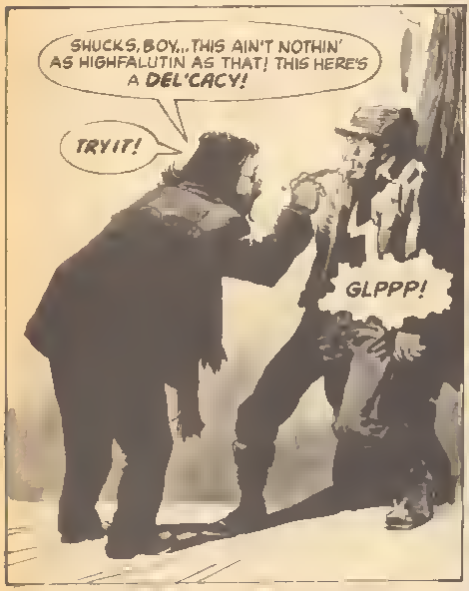

LOST, HUNGRY AND IN NEED OF GASOLINE, IF I'M ANY JUDGE A'CITY FOLK!
YOU'RE RIGHT, POP! ALL THE WAY DOWN THE LINE! I LEFT PHILLY YESTERDAY NOON ON MY WAY TO MIAMI BEACH! I'VE BEEN ON THE ROAD EVER SINCE, WITH NEITHER FOOD NOR SLEEP!

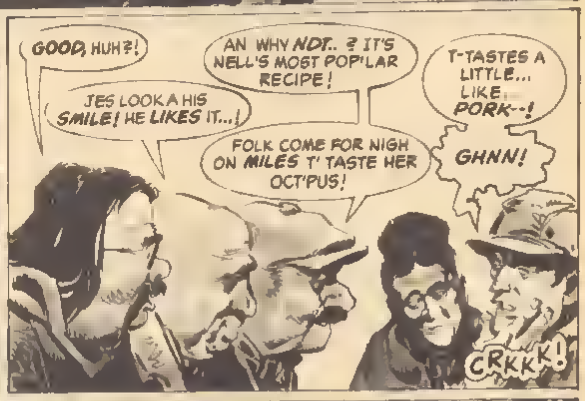
WELL Y'COME T' THE RIGHT PLACE FER VITTLES, BOY!
OLD LADY SLUDGE HERE'S TH' BEST COOK THIS SIDE'A MONTAGUE MOUNTAIN!
WE JUST BEEN WATCHIN' HER PUT UP A BATCHA PICKLED OCTOPUS!

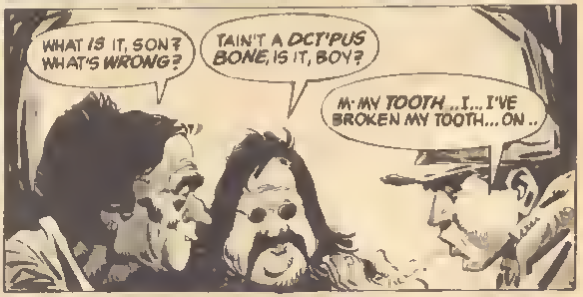

P-PICKLED OCTOPUS?
OH, Y' SLY DEVIL YOU! Y'CAN'T FOOL US! WE KNOWED YOU SMELLED IT COOKIN' CLEAR DOWN TH' ROAD!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE, AIN'T IT, BOY? YOU DONE HEARD BOUT NELLIE SLUDGE'S FAMED PICKLED OCT'PUS LIVERS!


WELL... TRUTHFULLY... ER I CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVE!
WHY IT'S LEGEND, BOY! ONE TASTE A NELL'S OCTOPUS AND YOU'LL BE HOOKED FOR LIFE!
YOU WON'T LEAVE HERE WITHOUT WANTIN' T' TAKE A CASE 'A IT HOME WITH YA!


HERE, BOY.. TRY A BITE! FRESH COOKED OUTTA TH POT STILL STEAMIN' HOT!
Y-YOUR KIDDING ME, AREN'T YOU? I.. I MEAN.. P-PICKLEO OCTOPUS?
I'VE HEARD TALES ABOUT YOU MOUNTAIN FOLK PUTTING THINGS OVER ON US CITY DWELLERS... FEEDING US MOUNTAIN OYSTERS... ROAD APPLES...!


SHUCKS, BOY... THIS AIN'T NOTHIN' AS HIGHFALUTIN AS THAT! THIS HERE'S A DEL'CACY!
TRY IT!
GLPPP!


GOOD, HUH?!
AN WHY NOT.. ? IT'S NELL'S MOST POP'LAR RECIPE!
T-TASTES A LITTLE... LIKE.. PORK--!
JES LOOK A HIS SMILE! HE LIKES IT...!
FOLK COME FOR NIGH ON MILES T' TASTE HER OCT'PUS!
GHNN!
CRKKK!


WHAT IS IT, SON? WHAT'S WRONG?
TAIN'T A OCT'PUS BONE, IS IT, BOY?
M-MY TOOTH... I... I'VE BROKEN MY TOOTH... ON..

OH MY GOO!
A RING?
IT IT'S ORMOND'S WEDDING RING!
AIN T JUST HIS RING, FOLKS! THAT'S HIS WHOLE FINGER!

OH JEEZUS! OH LORD! W-WHAT ARE YOU FEEDING ME?
IT WAS 'SPOSE T' A BEEN OCTOPUS, SON! HONEST! I DON'T KNOW HOW ORMONO'S FINGER COULDDA GOT IN THERE!
AIN T JUST HIS FINGER! LOOKS LIKE ORMOND'S EN'TIRE HAND GOT PICKLEO!
LORDY! NO WONDER IT TASTED LIKE PORK!

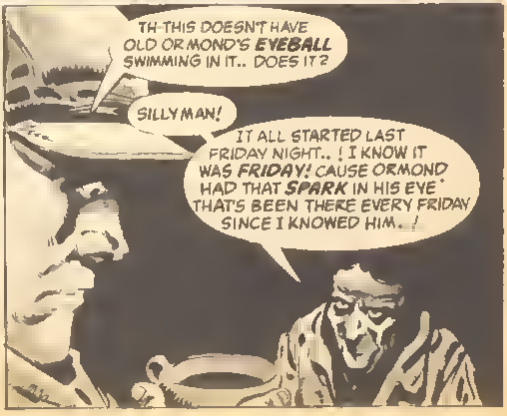
I DO 'POLOGIZE BOUT THAT STRANGER! I CAN'T TELL YA HOW SORRY I AM!
NOT HALF AS SORRY AS ORMOND, I DARE SAY!
THAT'S NOT THE REST OF OLD ORM COOKIN UP THERE, IS IT?

HEAVENS NO, SON! THAT'S GEN'YOO'INE OCT'PUS!
WE DONE GOT US A BIG KETCH A IT LAST WEEK!
UH... YOU'LL FORGIVE MY IGNORANCE. BUT HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
I MEAN, OCTOPUS IS AN INHABITANT OF SALT WATER AND THE NEAREST OCEAN IS A THOUSAND MILES AWAY!

HA! HA! JUST LIKE A CITY SLICKER! DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'!
THESE AIN'T SEA OCT'PUS, STRANGER...
THEY'S LAND OCT'PUS!
WHOLE BUNCHA THEM COME SLITHERIN' OFF THE MOUNTAIN LAST WEEK!

HELL FIRE BOY. THEY WAS SO MANY A' THEM THEY DONE GOT UP NERVE 'NUFF T' ATTACK POOR OLD ORMOND.. GOD REST HIS SOUL! THAT'S HOW HIS FINGER MUST'A GOT IN THERE!
HIS HAND!
SCUSE ME..! I MEAN HIS WHOLE HAND!

I.. I'M SORRY! PLEASE. I'VE HAD A LONG DRIVE. I'M LOST, HUNGRY, VERY TIRED. I JUST KNOW I'M IMAGINING ALL THIS!
OH, YOU POOR BOY! THEY AIN'T NOTHIN' T' IMAGINE! HERE YOU TAKE M' COFFEE... SIT BACK... AND WE'LL TELL YOU THE WHOLE SORRY TALE!


TH-THIS DOESN'T HAVE OLD ORMOND'S EYEBALL SWIMMING IN IT.. DOES IT?
SILLY MAN!
IT ALL STARTED LAST FRIDAY NIGHT..! I KNOW IT WAS FRIDAY! CAUSE ORMOND HAD THAT SPARK IN HIS EYE' THAT'S BEEN THERE EVERY FRIDAY SINCE I KNOWED HIM..!

"WE WAS SETTIN' INSIDE TH' PORCH... LOOKIN' UP AT TH' STARS! THEY WAS SO BEAUT'FUL THAT NIGHT. CLEAR AS A BOWL OF JELLIED POSSOM EYES!
"SUDDENLY...WE SEEN THIS SHOOTIN' STAR COME'A BLAZIN' OUTTA THE HEAVENS...CLOSER THAN ANY WE DONE EVER SEEN!
"IT FLASHED FROM THE SKY AN' 'SPLODED IN A BLINDIN' BLAZE A'LIGHT...NOT MORE THAN HALF A MILE UP TH' MOUNTAIN!
"ORM WAS NATURAL WORRIED 'BOUT THERE BEIN'A FIRE! AN' HE WAS JES GETTIN' READY T' GO OUT IN THE WOODS AN' TAKE A PEEK WHEN SUDDENLY WE HEARD IT...
SK-KITCH!
SKAKK!
"...THAT...THAT HIDEOUS CRACKLING-CACKLE...! A HALF-LAUGH, HALF-SCREAM! LIKE A' ARAB TRYIN' T' TALK WITH HIS MOUTH AFIRE!
"WE RUSHED TO TH' DOOR NOT KNOWIN' WHAT COULD BE MAKIN' TH' SOUNDS...! BUT NEVER 'SPECTIN' EITHER, T' SEE WHAT WAS AWAITIN' US!
"IT... IT WAS A HIDEOUS, SLIMEY, EIGHT-ARMED OCTOPUS!
"AN'...AN' IT WAS A COMIN' RIGHT AT US!
"ORM YELLED FOR ME T' GET INSIDE TH' STORE T' SAFETY!
I RAN... BUT I SEEN HIM GRAB UP HIS HUNTIN' HATCHET AN' GO HEAD ON AT TH' THING!

'ORM WAS SCARED, THAT WERE PLAIN ENOUGH. HE HAIN'T NEVER SEEN NO CREATURE LIKE THIS A'FORE! AN' HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT T'SPECT!
HE JUST LUNGED AT THE MONSTER AN STARTED HACKIN' AWAY!

"HE... HE CUT THAT CREATURE GOOD! BUT_BUT ORM_OH POOR ORM.. HE DIDN'T HAVE NO CHANCE 'GAINST THEM EIGHT SLIMY ARMS!
'THEY... THEY GRABBED HIM! AN' PULLED HIM... AND... AND... OH GOD! ;SOB!;

" THAT... THAT CREATURE WAS PULLIN' HIM APART! H-HE WAS IN AGONY! BUT ORM DIDN'T STOP! HE... HE KNEW HE HAD T' PROTECT ME... AN' HE JUST KEPT HACKIN' AWAY!

AN' THAT ;SOB;; THAT'S WHEN THAT CRITTER WENT AN' CHOMPED DOWN ON ORM'S HAND... BITIN' IT CLEAN OFF AT THE WRIST!

"I.. I JUST COULDN'T WATCH NO MORE! THAT... THAT'S WHEN I RAN FOR ORM'S SHOTGUN...!

"I... I GOT BACK AN'... AN' I SEEN ORM ALL SPLAYED AN' TANGLED WITH THAT MONSTER! HE... HE WEREN'T MOVIN' A'TALL... AN'... I JUST KNEW... HE WAS... GONE!

"BUT... BUT WORSE... THAT_THAT MONSTER WAS A LAYIN' THERE IN HIS OWN GORE N' SLIME...! IT WAS DYIN', TOO.. I KNOW..! BUT IT WAS JUST A CHOMPIN' ON ORM'S HAND, WITH ITS EYES ROLLED BACK INTO ITS BUBBLE HEAD, LIKE... LIKE IT WAS ENJOYIN' THE FINEST MEAL IT EVER ATE!

"OH . I... I WAS SICK AT TH' SIGHT! I JUST COULDN'T TAKE NO MORE! I BLOWED BOTH BARRELS AT THAT SLIME CREATURE, BLASTIN' HIM CLEAN TO 'BLIVION!

BA-BDOM

"AN' THAT ... THAT'S WHEN I SAW TH' OTHERS! MORE OF 'EM OCTOPUS SLUDGE CRITTERS...SLITHERIN' OFF THE HILL!

"THEY WAS COMIN' STRAIGHT FOR ME ... T' AVENGE TH' DEATH A' THEIR BROTHER!

THEY CLIMBED ONTO TH' ROOF TRYIN' BAD T' GET INTO TH' STOKE! OH, I TELL YA... I WOULDDA BEEN LOST FOR SURE IF'N ZEB AND THE BOYS HADN'T SHOWED UP!"

WE HEARD THE COMMOTION CLEAR OVER T' THE BOARDIN' HOUSE AN' CAME A RUNNIN' QUICK AS WE COULD T' HELP!

GOOD THING, TOO. ELSE THEM OCT'PUS CRITTERS MIGHT'A BEEN HERE PICKLIN' OLD NELL, 'STEAD A' THE OTHER WAY 'ROUND!

THAT ... THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

'CREDIBLE BUT TRUE!

WE GOT US A WHOLE BATCH'A TH' BEST PICKLED CRITTERS THIS SIDE 'A THE MISSISSIP T' PROVE IT!

OH NO ... NOOO! Y-YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

DON'T YOU SEE?

THESE WEREN'T OCTOPUS...! THEY WEREN'T ANYTHING LIKE WE'VE EVER SEEN ON EARTH BEFORE!

THAT SHOOTING STAR YOU SAW COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL VEHICLE!

I- IT MUST HAVE CRASH LANDED ON THE MOUNTAIN!

AND ... AND THESE CREATURES WERE ALIENS-- INTELLIGENT BEINGS FROM ANOTHER WORLD...

...EARTH'S FIRST VISITORS FROM ANOTHER PLANET..
AND YOU'VE PICKLED THEM!
YOU'VE WIPED OUT EVERY TRACE OF THEIR EXISTENCE!
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTIN' SO RILED 'BOUT SON!
WE DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' 'BOUT NO ALIENS OR VISITORS FROM STRANGE WORLDS!
HELL, BOY ! YOU THE ONLY VISITOR FROM A STRANGE LAND WE HAD 'ROUND HERE IN MONTHS!
ALL I KNOW IS, WE GONNA BE EATIN' HIGH S'LONG AS OUR PICKLED VITTLES HOLD OUT!
AN THAT'S GONNA BE A CON'SIDRABLE TIME WHAT WITH THEM THAT'S STILL PACKED AWAY IN THE ICE BOX!
I- ICE BOX?
YOU ..YOU MEAN.. YOU HAVEN'T COOKED THEM ALL?
DAMN BOY..! THEY'S TOO MANY A' THEM T' COOK UP ALL AT ONCE!
THEY'S STILL ONE WHOLE CARCASS T' BE SKINNED AND CLEANED!
OH LORD..! IF THAT'S SO..! SHOW ME... PLEASE!
YOU'RE ACTIN' AWFUL STRANGE SON!
OH GOD! OH GOD! IT... IT'S INCREDIBLE!
GOTTA 'POLOGIZE FOR TH' WAY IT'S BATTERED UP! THIS S TH' ONE I HAD T' BLAST WITH ORM'S SHOTGUN..!
IT ACTUALLY IS A CREATURE FROM.. ANOTHER PLANET! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS TO SCIENCE?

OH LORD. PROMISE ME PLEASE... YOU WON'T PICKLE THIS ONE!
I... I'VE GOT TO TELL THE SCIENTISTS! THE GOVERNMENT WILL WANT TO KNOW...! AND NASA NASA WILL WANT TO GET IN ON THIS TOO!

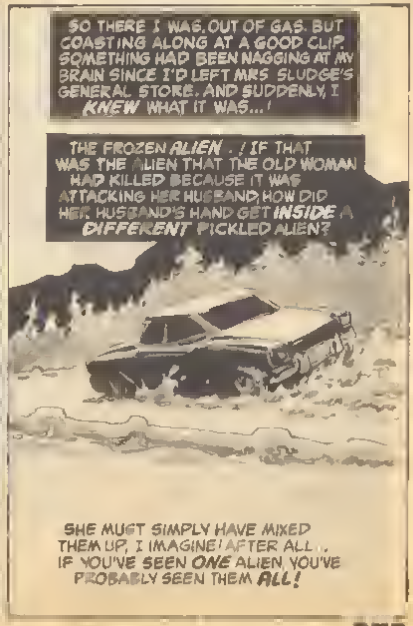
OH... JUST LET ME GET DOWN THAT MOUNTAIN...! I'LL TELL THE WORLD! YOU'LL BE FAMOUS!
PEOPLE WILL COME FROM ALL OVER...JUST TO SEE YOUR FROZEN ALIEN!
IT'S THAT IMPORTANT, HUH?...!

IMPORTANT? WHY IT'S THE DISCOVERY OF THE DECADE! PROMISE ME... PLEASE... YOU WON'T COOK THAT CREATURE, NO MATTER WHAT!
WELL SINCE YOU ASKED SO NICE...!
OH THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
I'LL BE BACK!
SOON!
AND I'LL BRING THE WHOLE DAMNED WORLD WITH ME!

STRANGE FELLA, AIN'T HE! EVEN F GOT HIS GASOLINE!
DON'T MATTER! IT'S ALL DOWNHILL T' THE NEAREST TOWN!

Y'REALLY THINK HE'LL BE BACK?
THAT'S WHY WE SHOWED HIM THAT FROZEN CARCASS, AIN'T IT?
SO HE'D TELL OTHERS... AN' THEY'D COME A RUNNIN' UP HERE T'SEE!

AFTER ALL... THIS ONE SMALL BATCH'A CANNED VITTLES AIN'T GONNA LAST US FOREVER!
NOW THAT WE'RE STRANDED ON THIS ALIEN WORLD, WE GONNA NEED LOTS N' LOTS A' FOOD T'KEEP UP OUR STRENGTH!
SURE IS LUCKY PO' DEAD OL' MALAPROP DONE CHOMPED DOWN ON THAT OLD COOT'S HAND...!
OTHERWISE WE MIGHT NEVER A KNOWED HOW SIMPLY DEE LISHUS PICKLED PEOPLE CAN BE!


SO THERE I WAS, OUT OF GAS. BUT COASTING ALONG AT A GOOD CLIP. SOMETHING HAD BEEN NAGGING AT MY BRAIN SINCE I'D LEFT MRS. SLUDGE'S GENERAL STORE. AND SUDDENLY, I KNEW WHAT IT WAS...!
THE FROZEN ALIEN . . ! IF THAT WAS THE ALIEN THAT THE OLD WOMAN HAD KILLED BECAUSE IT WAS ATTACKING HER HUSBAND, HOW DID HER HUSBAND'S HAND GET INSIDE A DIFFERENT PICKLED ALIEN?
SHE MUST SIMPLY HAVE MIXED THEM UP, I IMAGINE! AFTER ALL... IF YOU'VE SEEN ONE ALIEN, YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN THEM ALL!

END

PREVIEW

CREEPY

#93 Boxing! Track! Baseball! Basketball! Football! Hockey! Monsters! Mayhem! Magic! Murder! That's CREEPY #93 ... the most spectacular All-Sports-Horror issue ever! ON SALE SEPT. 20!

EERIE

#88 Aliens and humans clash in a high-voltage game of Deathball, 21001... basketball-gone-wild in the 22nd century! Plus Rook! Scallywag! Boiling Point! Geffer's Fine! Wish! ON SALE SEPT. 22!

SPORTS-HORROR-ACTION!

VAMPIRELLA #65

MYSTERY SPECIAL!

Ever guess a story's conclusion after reading the first few pages? Ever watch a TV show and know in advance how it will end? Then this is the book for you . . . your chance to put this special skill to the test! How? Warren Publishing writers and artists present you with six mysteries! You solve the puzzles! And you win the prizes if you guess correctly! For details see VAMPIRELLA #65 . . . ON SALE SE[illegible] R 27!

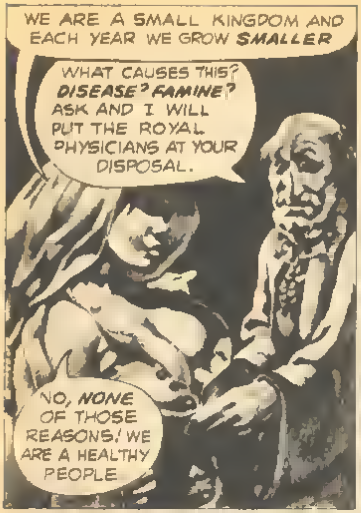
EVEN KINGS MAKE NERVOUS GROOMS AND OLD KINGS LIKE LADISLAWS III, ARE FOOLS ON THEIR WEDDING NIGHT.

LADISLAWS WAS UNDERSTANDABLY DAZZLED BY THE YOUNG GIRL'S BEAUTY, BUT ALL ROSES HAVE THORNS AND THE UNFORTUNATE MONARCH WAS TO KNOW LITTLE PEACE IN THE YEARS TO COME. INSTEAD HE WAS TO LEARN A BIZZARE NEW MEANING OF MOTHERLY LOVE. BUT LET US NOT KEEP THE TITTERING MONARCH FROM HIS GREATEST MOMENT OF HAPPINESS BEFORE HIS COMELY BRIDE SUCCUMBS TO A PASSION SHE HAD LONG THOUGHT SURPRESSED. A RAW, UNLEARNED EMOTION CALLED...

Instinct

STORY NICOLA CUTI/ART RICH CORBEN

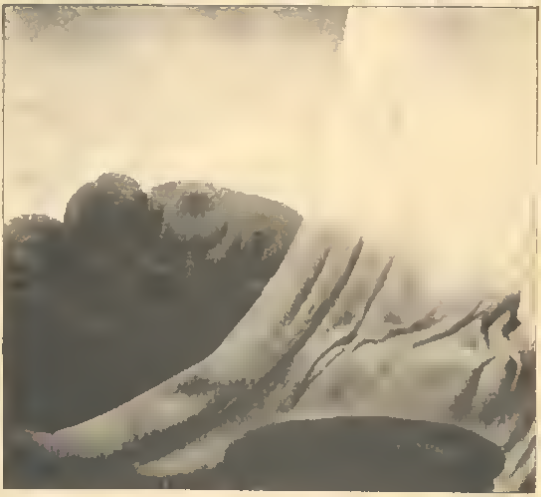
YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE! THE WEDDING! YOU MUST WAIT 'TIL OUR NUPTIALS!
I CANNOT WAIT YOUR BEAUTY HAS CHARMED ME SO, THAT MY RESTRAINTS HAVE DISSOLVED IN THE FLAMES OF MY DESIRE FOR YOU! SAY NOW THAT YOU WILL BE MINE.
THIS IS GRUNDA, MY COMPANION AND PROTECTOR OF MY UH, VIRTUE
OX! WHERE IS THY YOKE?
" DISSOLVED IN THE FLAMES OF MY DESIRE " HMMMM, NOT BAD. I'VE STILL GOT THE TOUCH!
SLAM
SEVERAL HOURS LATER, FLOCKS OF POMPOUS LORDS AND LADIES GATHERED TO VIEW THE REGAL MARRIAGE EACH WAS SURE TO MAKE HIS PRESENCE FELT AND EACH WAS SURE TO MAKE HIS PRESENTS KNOWN
BY THE POWER INVESTED IN ME I PRONOUNCE THEE MAN AND WIFE!
. AND THEN BEGAN THE COURTSHIP...
HOW ELEGANT! I ADORE THIS LODGE. IT SHALL BE OUR HIDE-A-WAY.
I ADMIT, SWEET RHODA, THAT I HAVE LITTLE CURIOUSITY ABOUT YOUR PEOPLE BUT TO HEAR THE TENDER MELODIES OF YOUR VOICE I WOULD ASK YOU A THOUSAND QUESTIONS TELL ME OF YOUR COUNTRY I WISH TO HEAR EVERY SPINNEY, GLADE, HEATH AND FEN LET NO SECTION OF YOUR LANDSCAPE REMAIN UNKNOWN TO ME.


WE ARE A SMALL KINGDOM AND EACH YEAR WE GROW SMALLER
WHAT CAUSES THIS? DISEASE? FAMINE? ASK AND I WILL PUT THE ROYAL PHYSICIANS AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
NO, NONE OF THOSE REASONS! WE ARE A HEALTHY PEOPLE

PERHAPS THE WOMEN OF THE LAND ARE ALL NOT AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU ARE.
I AM BUT AN AVERAGE BEAUTY IN MALIVORE

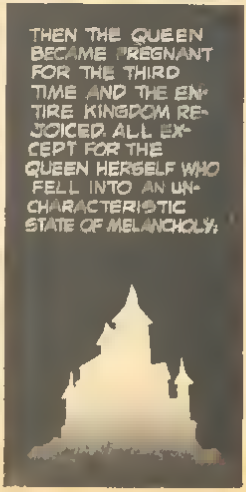
THEN THE MEN ARE NOT AS ACTIVE IN LOVEMAKING AS THEY SHOULD BE.
NO WOMAN IN MY COUNTRY LACKS AFFECTION

SURELY THERE IS A CAUSE FOR YOUR KINGDOM'S DILEMMA BUT I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS!
AT THIS MOMENT, SIRE, SO AM I DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH MORE THAN OUR LOVE MAKING.

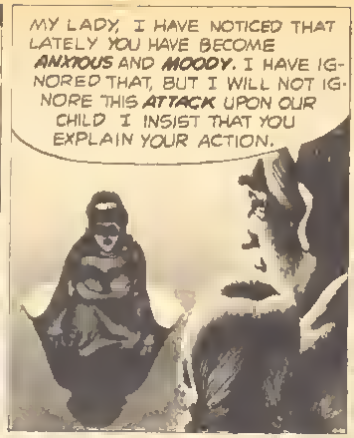


YEARS PASSED BUT DESPITE LADISLAWS' EXPECTATIONS, RHODA PROVIDED HIM WITH ONLY TWO CHILDREN...BOTH FEMALE!
I NEED A MALE HEIR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WE'LL TRY AGAIN

AS THE GIRLS, LAURA AND ELLA, GREW IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THEY HAD INHERITED THE CHARM AND BEAUTY OF THEIR MOTHER AND THEY BECAME COURT FAVORITES


THEN THE QUEEN BECAME PREGNANT FOR THE THIRD TIME AND THE ENTIRE KINGDOM REJOICED. ALL EXCEPT FOR THE QUEEN HERSELF WHO FELL INTO AN UNCHARACTERISTIC STATE OF MELANCHOLY.

DADDY, DADDY! MOMMY BIT ME ON THE SHOULDER! GRUNDA HAD TO PULL HER AWAY FROM ME
WHAT?! GREYSTONE, TELL THE QUEEN THAT I WANT TO SEE HER


MY LADY, I HAVE NOTICED THAT LATELY YOU HAVE BECOME ANXIOUS AND MOODY. I HAVE IGNORED THAT, BUT I WILL NOT IGNORE THIS ATTACK UPON OUR CHILD I INSIST THAT YOU EXPLAIN YOUR ACTION.

MY LIEGE, I WAS MERELY PLAYING WITH ELLA AND GAVE HER A LOVE NIP.
YOUR "NIP" HAS DRAWN BLOOD!

DARLING, TELL ME WHAT TROUBLES YOU SO IS IT YOUR PREGNANCY? ARE YOU AFRAID I WILL BE ANNOYED WITH YOU IF YOU DO NOT DELIVER A BOY THIS TIME?
NO

LADDIE, COULD WE GO AWAY TOGETHER? JUST THE TWO OF US?
A VACATION IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA WELL GO TO MY LODGE YOU HAVE ALWAYS LOVED THE PLACE

HOWEVER, THE CHILDREN MUST COME ALONG. GRUNDA, HAVE A SLED WAITING AND PREPARE A WEEKS LUGGAGE
OH NO!

PUT THE GIRLS TO BED, SWEETHEART, AND I'LL START A FIRE.
YES, DEAR.
GRUNDA, BRING ME A LOG. GRUNDA! WHY DO YOU KEEP LOOKING UPSTAIRS AS IF YOU EXPECT SOMETHING TO HAPPEN.
YOU ARE A KIND MAN, SIRE AND SHOULD KNOW THE TRUTH!
MY PEOPLE ARE VERY PRIMITIVE, MUCH LIKE THE DRUIDS OUR ANCESTRY IS DIFFERENT FROM HUMANS, WHICH IS WHY
HUMANS? BUT YOU'RE HUMAN.
WE WORSHIP THE GOD RODERE, THE GNAWING GOD KING OF THE RODENTS. UN--
EEEEEEEEEEEK
WHAT MADNESS HAS BEFALLEN MY HOUSE?
DADDY! MOMMY TRIED TO HURT ELLA. THEN SHE RAN AWAY. I'M SCARED, DADDY. WHY IS MOMMY ACTING SO MEAN TO US?
GRUNDA! I HAVE BEEN IGNORANT LONG ENOUGH. TELL ME EVERYTHING! YOU MUST EXPLAIN THE QUEEN'S BEHAVIOR TO ME.
VERY WELL, SIRE. UNLESS THE QUEEN IS STOPPED, LIKE THE ANIMAL FROM WHICH SHE IS DESCENDED, A CREATURE OF DESPICABLE HABITS AND MANNERISMS.
SHE WILL DEVOUR HER YOUNG!
SHE CAN NO LONGER DENY HER INSTINCT!

BUT SHE'S CARRYING MY CHILD .. MY SON!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND HER! RHODA! RHODA!

GIRLS! COME HERE I WANT YOU.
OH! THERE YOU ARE

DON'T BE AFRAID IT'S JUST YOUR MOTHER. YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T HARM YOU COME HERE, MY DARLINGS.

MONSTER! THEY'RE YOUR OWN CHILDREN!

MY HEART! OH GOD, MY HEART!

FLUMP
BUMP

I'M SORRY, YOUR HIGHNESS BUT HE'S DEAD!

MONTHS LATER...
GREYSTONE ... MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU?
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS? WHAT IS IT YOU WISH TO KNOW?
YOU'VE KEPT ME INCOMMUNICADO FOR SO LONG. I ... I AM TO BE EXECUTED, AREN'T I?
YOU ARE GOING HOME. YOU HAVE CAUSED THE DEATH OF A GREAT MAN—MY FRIEND WE WANT NO MORE GRIEF FROM YOU. YOUR KINGDOM MAY HAVE YOU BACK
IF YOUR CHILD IS A MALE, THEN, HE WILL REMAIN. ONE DAY HE WILL BE OUR RULER. WE WILL KEEP YOU COMFORTABLE UNTIL AFTER HIS BIRTH.
WILL I EVER BE ALLOWED TO SEE HIM? HE IS MY SON. SURELY YOU WILL--
NEVER!
I'VE SENT THE GIRLS TO THEIR AUNT WHERE THEY'LL BE SAFE FROM HER...
GREYSTONE, WHEN WILL YOU STOP MOURNING FOR YOUR KING?
...NEVER!
THEN THE CHILD WAS BORN.
IT'S A THROWBACK—A FREAK. IT SHOULD BE TAKEN AWAY AND RAISED IN SECRECY. STAY AWAY. DO NOT LOOK UPON THE THING. I WARN YOU!
OH GOD!
IT SHOULD BE WITH ITS MOTHER... BRING IT TO THE QUEEN!

END

PROLOGUE

RASHID, EGYPT 1937
BUT I TELL YOU, JOSEPH, THE TOMB IS VACANT! EUTHESUS' MUMMY AND EVERY SCRAP OF TREASURE IN HER BURIAL CHAMBER WAS REMOVED WITH THE 1893 EXPEDITION! WHAT CAN YOU HOPE TO FIND HERE?
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE PAPYRUS DOCUMENTS FOUND WITHIN HER TOMB THAT HAS ALWAYS BOTHERED ME, CARL.
THEY STATE IN TWO DISTINCT PASSAGES THAT QUEEN EUTHESUS HAD A SISTER NAMED TANAKUS...
...YET NO TOMB OF THE SISTER WAS EVER FOUND. WHY, CARL? WHY?
LISTEN, CARL! THIS IS WHAT I SEEK! IT'S HOLLOW! I TELL YOU THERE IS ANOTHER CORRIDOR BEYOND THIS WALL!
DIG, CARL! DIG!
IT'S MADNESS! EVERY GALLERY OF THIS PYRAMID HAS BEEN SCRUTINIZED! BUT VERY WELL··I'LL DIG! FOR YOU!
YOU SEE! WHAT DID I TELL Y··
CARL! GOOD LORD!
TRAPPED! TRAPPED FOR 10,000 YEARS!

Toward High Places

HERODOTUS, THE GREEK HISTORIAN, WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT 100,000 SLAVES WORKED ON THE GREAT PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT UNDER THE STINGING WHIP OF A MERCILESS TASKMASTER. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

ONLY ABOUT 4,000 WORKERS WERE REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT KHUFUS' MAMMOTH TOMB AND NEARLY ALL OF THESE WERE FREE CITIZENS DRAFTED FOR PUBLIC WORK, TOILING IN GANGS OF 18 TO 20 MEN. MOST ACTUALLY ENJOYED THE WORK, ROLLING HOME AT NIGHT IN GOOD SPIRITS, SATED WITH BREAD, DRUNK WITH BEER, AS IF THE WHOLE AFFAIR WERE A DAILY FESTIVAL.

YET SOME SLAVES DID EXIST--FORGOTTEN NOW THROUGH THE CENTURIES JUST AS SOME OF THE MIGHTY PYRAMIDS HAVE ALL BUT BEEN FORGOTTEN. THIS STORY IS ABOUT ONE OF THEM...

STORY BRUCE JONES/ART RAMON TORREN

HELLO LITTLE SCARAB! DID YOU COME DOWN TO THE RIVER TO BATHE?

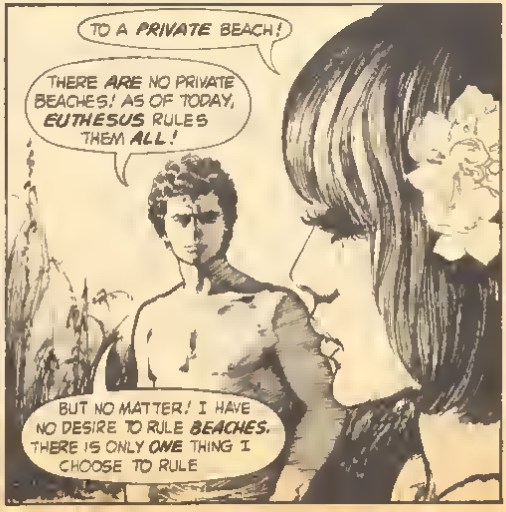
WERE YOU DRIVEN AWAY FROM THE PALACE BY ALL THE RACKET LIKE ME?
TAKE CARE, LITTLE BEETLE.. THAT A CROCODILE DOESN'T EAT YOU!

AGH!
HA-HA! TAKE CARE YOURSELF, LITTLE ONE!

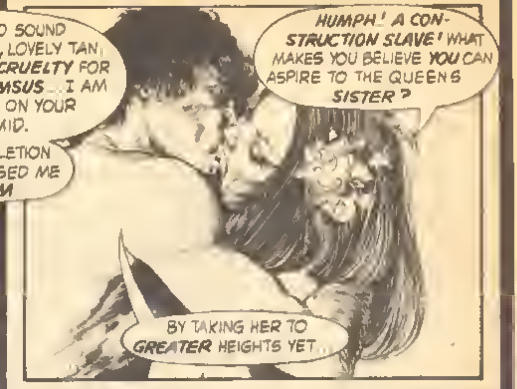
THAT WASN'T FUNNY! IT COULD HAVE BEEN A REAL CROCODILE!
...AND I HOPE ONE BITES YOUR LOIN CLOTH OFF!

AW DON'T BE ANGRY, LITTLE TAN! NO CROCODILE IN THE WORLD COULD RESIST SUCH SLIM, GRACEFUL LEGS!
WHO ARE YOU AND WHY AREN'T YOU AT THE CEREMONY OF THE QUEEN? IT IS THE LAW!
A LAW YOU ALSO CHOOSE TO IGNORE TOTALLY

THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T LIKE YOUR SISTER VERY MUCH. SHE PULLS THE WINGS OFF FLIES. NOT A NICE THING TO DO AT ALL, EVEN TO A FLY, WOULD YOU SAY?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?


TO A PRIVATE BEACH!
THERE ARE NO PRIVATE BEACHES! AS OF TODAY, EUTHESUS RULES THEM ALL!
BUT NO MATTER! I HAVE NO DESIRE TO RULE BEACHES. THERE IS ONLY ONE THING I CHOOSE TO RULE

STOP TRYING TO SOUND LIKE YOUR SISTER, LOVELY TAN! YOU HAVEN'T THE CRUELTY FOR IT. MY NAME IS DEMSUS... I AM A SLAVE AT WORK ON YOUR FATHER'S PYRAMID.
AT ITS COMPLETION HE HAS PROMISED ME FREEDOM
WHAT IS YOUR NAME? YOU ARE TOUCHING A KING'S DAUGHTER! DO YOU KNOW THAT?


HUMPH! A CONSTRUCTION SLAVE! WHAT MAKES YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN ASPIRE TO THE QUEEN'S SISTER?
BY TAKING HER TO GREATER HEIGHTS YET...

YOU WILL DIE FOR THAT!
NOT EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T LOVE ME LITTLE FLOWER YOU'RE FAR TOO COMPASSIONATE, SWEET TAN LIKE YOUR GREAT FATHER...
SLAP
...BUT YOU DO LOVE ME... EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET!

HA-HA! RUN, LITTLE TAN! RUN AWAY... FOR NOW! I'LL BE AT YOUR WINDOW BEFORE THE SUN GOD SINKS BENEATH THE NILE! I HAVE A WORLD OF THINGS TO TELL YOU! HA-HA!

A SLAVE! INDEED!
YOU'RE DOING THIS JUST TO SPITE ME, TAN! WELL, I WON'T HAVE IT! YOU'LL NOT RIDICULE MY THRONE BY BRINGING A COMMON PEASANT INTO THE FAMILY I FORBID THAT YOU LOVE HIM!

HA HA! "FORBID" MY LOVING SOMEONE? OH, EUTHESUS!--EVEN YOU HAVE NO AUTHORITY IN THOSE REGIONS

I USED TO ENVY MY SISTER, DEMSUS... NOW I PITY EVERY WOMAN IN EGYPT FOR NO ONE COULD FEEL MORE LIKE A QUEEN THAN I TONIGHT.
..SWEET TAN.

MAGUS! WHAT IS IT?
OH, M'LADY! THE PHARAOH! YOUR FATHER!

FATHER! NO!
..EVEN A PHARAOH MUST HEED THE CALL OF ANIBUS, MY CHILD... DARLING TAN... YOU WERE THE SUN AND MOON TO ME.

AGGGHHH!

DEMSUS!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, M'LADY!

YOU! YOU ARRANGED THIS! I'LL KILL YOU FOR IT! I'LL HAVE FATHER--
THE PHARAOH IS DEAD! HE CANNOT HELP YOU THIS TIME.
BESIDES, THE BARGAIN IS FULFILLED... HIS PYRAMID IS FINISHED-- AND DEMSUS IS SET FREE!

A GREAT FUNERAL FOR A GREAT KING...!
WHOM YOU NEVER LOVED...
DON'T BE BITTER, TAN COME, I'LL SHOW YOU AN EVEN MORE AWESOME SIGHT...!

BEHOLD! MY OWN FUNERAL SITE! THE GREATEST PYRAMID IN THE KINGDOM! THE MOST MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENT OF MANKIND!

SEALED WITHIN MY TOMB SHALL BE THE FINEST TREASURES IN ALL THE WORLD! I SHALL BE ENCASED IN A SARCOPHAGUS OF PURE GOLD, ORNAMENTED WITH THE MOST PRECIOUS GEMS IN THE LAND!
MY CHAMBER SHALL BE PLACED IN A GALLERY SO SECRET ONLY I AND MY FAITHFUL SERVANTS SHALL KNOW OF ITS EXISTANCE! I SHALL ENDURE FOREVER!
HA!

BE PRUDENT, SISTER DEAR...!
YOU SHAN'T ENDURE FOREVER, EUTHESUS WITHIN BUT A FEW YEARS AFTER YOUR INTERMENT YOUR TOMB SHALL STAND VACANT, YOUR SUNKEN MUMMY STREWN ABOUT THE CHAMBER FLOOR!

FOR THAT BLASPHEMY YOU SHALL DIE, MY SISTER!
BEFORE YOU CARRY OUT THAT ORDER, FOLLOW ME. I TOO HAVE SOMETHING TO REVEAL THIS DAY.

THE ANCIENT TOMB OF RAMSES II ..NEARLY AS FLAMBOYANT AS YOUR OWN SHRINE NOW, FOLLOW ME WITHIN...
YOU KNOW THE WAY? BUT, IT IS AN AGELESS SECRET!

NOT TO ALL, MY QUEEN. SOMEONE HAD TO CONSTRUCT THE TOMB. IN THIS CASE IT WAS THE GREAT, GREAT GRANDFATHER OF DEMSUS.

BEHOLD YOUR DESTINY, QUEEN EUTHESUS
VANDALIZED! AS IS EVERY PYRAMID IN EGYPT SOONER OR LATER!
NO! NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

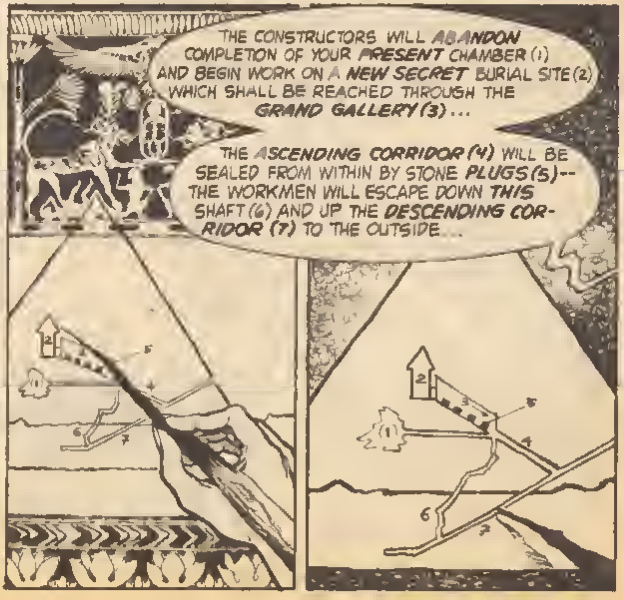
THERE MUST BE A WAY TO KEEP MY SACRED BURIAL CHAMBER UNPROFAINED!
THERE MUST BE ONE MAN IN ALL EGYPT WHO CAN DEVISE A SECRET CHAMBER SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO CONFOUND EVEN THE CLEVEREST THEIVES!
THERE WAS SUCH A MAN YOU HAD HIM KILLED YESTERDAY BENEATH THE WHEELS OF A CHARIOT...!

DEMSUS! YOUR FOOL CONSTRUCTION SLAVE? HE KNEW THE SECRETS OF THE ANCIENT PYRAMIDS?
HE KNEW THEM.. EVEN AS I KNOW THEM NOW ..!

YOU WILL TELL ME, TAN. OR I WILL HAVE YOU PUT TO DEATH!
AT WHICH POINT YOU WOULD BE WITHOUT THE INFORMATION YOU NEED ..!
I WILL MAKE THE DEALS, DEAR EUTHESUS ..!

YOU WILL HAVE THE SECRET CHAMBER YOU WISH FOR. ONLY IF YOU GIVE ME THE FOLLOWING ..
..AN EGYPTIAN FUNERAL FOR DEMSUS IN THE HOLY TEMPLE OF RA AND A YEARLY PENSION FOR HIS SURVIVING FAMILY.
DO WE HAVE A BARGAIN?

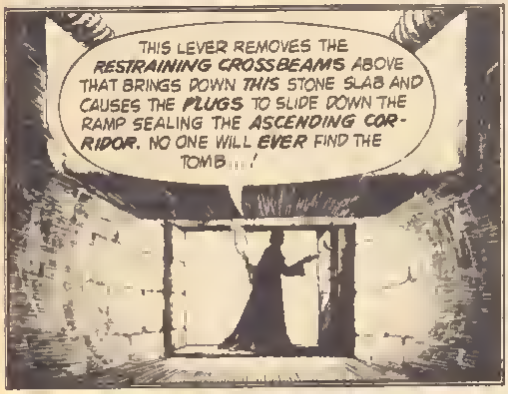
...WE HAVE A BARGAIN...!


THE CONSTRUCTORS WILL ABANDON COMPLETION OF YOUR PRESENT CHAMBER (1) AND BEGIN WORK ON A NEW SECRET BURIAL SITE (2) WHICH SHALL BE REACHED THROUGH THE GRAND GALLERY (3)...
THE ASCENDING CORRIDOR (4) WILL BE SEALED FROM WITHIN BY STONE PLUGS (5)-- THE WORKMEN WILL ESCAPE DOWN THIS SHAFT (6) AND UP THE DESCENDING CORRIDOR (7) TO THE OUTSIDE...

YOU MUST SELECT WORKMEN WHO ARE TERMINALLY ILL, FACING A DEATH PENALTY OR UNSWERVINGLY FAITHFUL...!
LEAVE THAT TO ME ..
...COME, I'LL MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR LOVER'S FUNERAL...!

EUTHESUS! EUTHESUS! WAKE UP! THE TOMB IS COMPLETED! I MUST SHOW YOU HOW IT OPERATES! I'M LEAVING EGYPT TOMORROW!

BUT I ALREADY KNOW THE NEW CHAMBER BACKWARD AND FORWARD!
AND THIS SANDSTORM! COULDN'T WE WAIT 'TILL MORNING?
A SANDSTORM IS PRECISELY WHAT WE NEED. IT WILL COVER OUR TRACKS. DON'T YOU WANT TO KEEP THE TOMB SECRET?

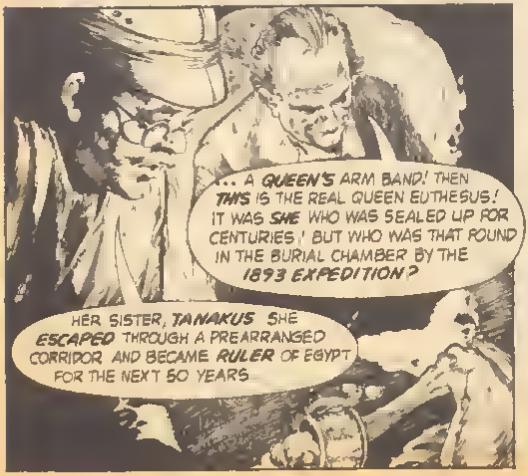

THIS LEVER REMOVES THE RESTRAINING CROSSBEAMS ABOVE THAT BRINGS DOWN THIS STONE SLAB AND CAUSES THE PLUGS TO SLIDE DOWN THE RAMP SEALING THE ASCENDING CORRIDOR. NO ONE WILL EVER FIND THE TOMB...!

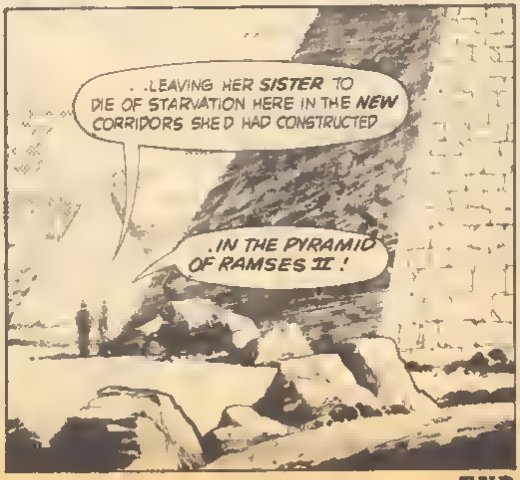
--JUST AS NO ONE WILL EVER FIND YOU, DEAREST TAN!

THINK I DON'T REALIZE YOU'RE PLANNING TO SEAL ME UP HERE NOW! THINK I DON'T KNOW YOU'RE STILL MAD WITH GRIEF OVER THAT SIMPLETON SLAVE?
YOU'LL NOT TAKE MY THRONE SO EASILY, TAN DEAR LOVE... I'LL SEAL YOU HERE AND DESIGN YET ANOTHER TOMB FOR MYSELF...THANKS TO YOUR SO GENEROUS SUGGESTIONS!

HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
CRUNCH

EPILOGUE





END

EPILOGUE

CHICAGO WAS A ROUGH TOWN IN 1928...AND NOBODY KNEW THAT BETTER THAN TONY DESOTO. TONY WAS THINKING ABOUT HIS FUTURE...AND HOW HE COULD IMPROVE IT...

TONY WAS A STREET THUG WHO DESPERATELY WANTED A PIECE OF THE ACTION...
HEY-THAT'S "BIG MIKE". HE'S TAKIN' A BIG CHANCE STRAYIN' THIS FAR OUTA HIS OWN MOB'S TURF!

A BIG CHANCE. THE PRICE THAT'S OUT FOR HIM... SOMEBODY WITH THE GUTS COULD JUST WALK INTO THAT JOINT AND COLLECT A BUNDLE!

A GUY LIKE THAT COULD MAKE HIMSELF AN INSTANT REPUTATION...!
NOLA'S CLAM RESTAURAN

THIS COULD BE THE CHANCE I BEEN WAITIN' FOR...

NOLA'S

...HERE GOES NOTHIN'!

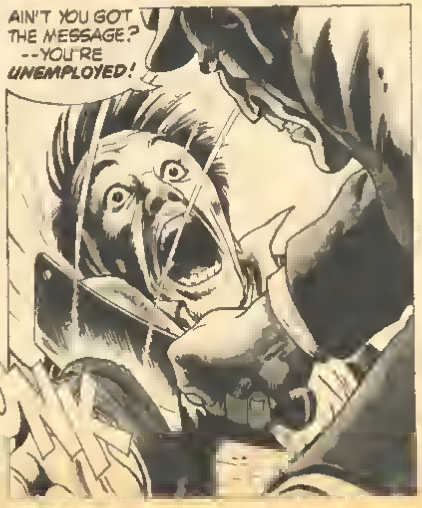
THE EXECUTIONER

STORY RUSS HEATH AND CARY BATES/ART RUSS HEATH

A MAN LIKE BIG MIKE DON'T GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT A BODYGUARD COVERING THE REAR DOOR.
BAM

NOW-OUT THE BACK BEFORE THE DRIVER COMES IN!
DON'T WANNA BE CAUGHT WITH THESE--

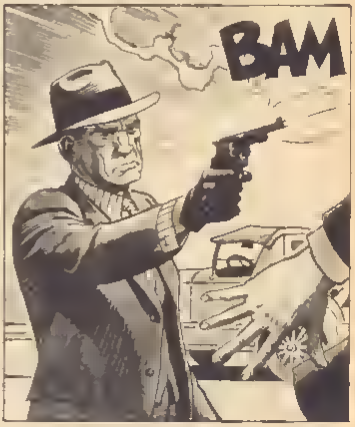
YOU... AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE... BUT TO HELL!


AIN'T YOU GOT THE MESSAGE? --YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED!
CHOK

OVER THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, TONY DESOTO BECAME KNOWN THROUGHOUT CHICAGO AS DON MORRICONE'S ACE EXECUTIONER.

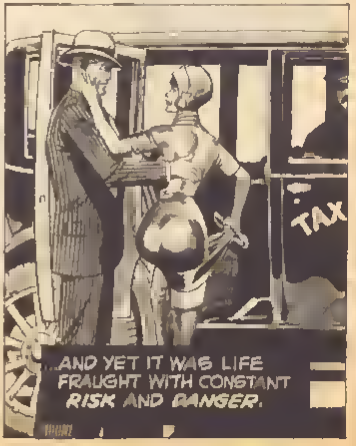
TONY'S EVER RISING FEES RAPIDLY PROPELLED HIS LIFE STYLE UPWARDS.

IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS HE BECAME ONE OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS KILLERS OF HIS TIME.



HE LIVED WELL...VERY WELL... EXPENSIVE CIGARS - SUITS - CARS.

AND BETWEEN HITS TONY ENJOYED THE COMPANY OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN ...MANY WOMEN...



FOR TONY KNEW HE TOO WAS ACCUMULATING ENEMIES--AS RIVAL UNDERWORLD MOBS PEGGED TONY DESOTO AS A PRIME TARGET!

HE KNEW AN ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE COULD COME ANYWHERE...

...AT ANY TIME...
...FROM ANYONE, EVEN THOSE HE'D LEAST SUSPECT!

PLEASE TAKE THE YOUNG LADY TO 1818 CULVER STREET, DRIVER!

BUT MISTER - THAT'S THE CITY MORGUE!
TONY KNEW IT WOULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE WOULD ENCOUNTER DEATH ONCE AGAIN--
--NOT AS AN EXECUTIONER, BUT SOMEONE ELSE'S VICTIM!

THAT NIGHT TONY COULD NOT SLEEP—FOR HE HAD A BIG ***DECISION*** TO MAKE! AND BY MORNING, HE HAD DECIDED...

RING

--I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR IT, ***DON MORRICONE!*** I WAS WORRIED MY ***RETIREMENT*** WOULD MAKE YOU ***UNHAPPY!***

NONSENSE, TONY! YOU MADE ENOUGH ***MONEY*** TO LIVE OUT YOUR LIFE IN STYLE...

... HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE ***LAST FAVOR*** YOU COULD DO FOR ME--ONE LAST HIT!

...***DEATH*** IS TOO GOOD FOR THIS SCUM! I WANT HIM FRAMED FOR THE MURDER OF A TWO-BIT CLUB-OWNER THEY CALL THE ***WIZ!***

THAT'S WHY I'M GIVING YOU ***THIS***...

... IT'S THE SCUM'S REGISTERED GUN--LOADED! I WANT YOU TO USE IT FOR THE ***HIT***--AND DUMP IT THERE. THAT WAY THE COPS WILL PIN THE WIZ'S MURDER ON ***HIM!***

IT HAS TO BE DONE ***TONIGHT***--MY BOYS ARE GONNA ***DETAIN*** THIS CREEP TO MAKE SURE HE HAS NO ALIBI WHILE YOU'RE PULLING THE TRIGGER!

AND AFTER ALL FINAL DETAILS HAVE BEEN COVERED...

THANK YOU, ***DON MORRICONE!*** IT HAS BEEN A ***PLEASURE*** TO WORK FOR YOU!

IT HAS BEEN GOOD KNOWING YOU, TONY!

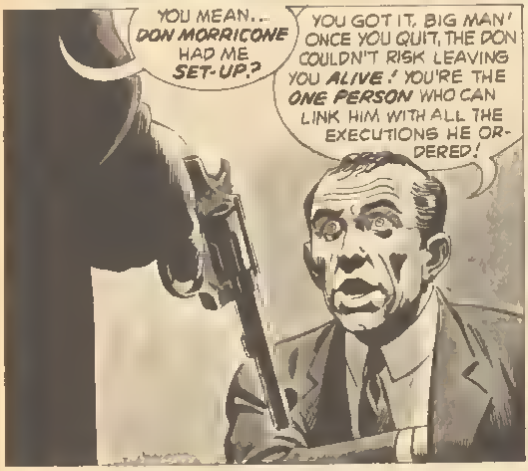
THAT NIGHT, IT'S BUSINESS-AS-USUAL AT THE ROXY, A NOT-SO-EXCLUSIVE SPEAK-EASY ON THE NORTH SIDE . BUT ***BEHIND*** THE ROXY...

PSSST... WIZ! OVER ***HERE!***

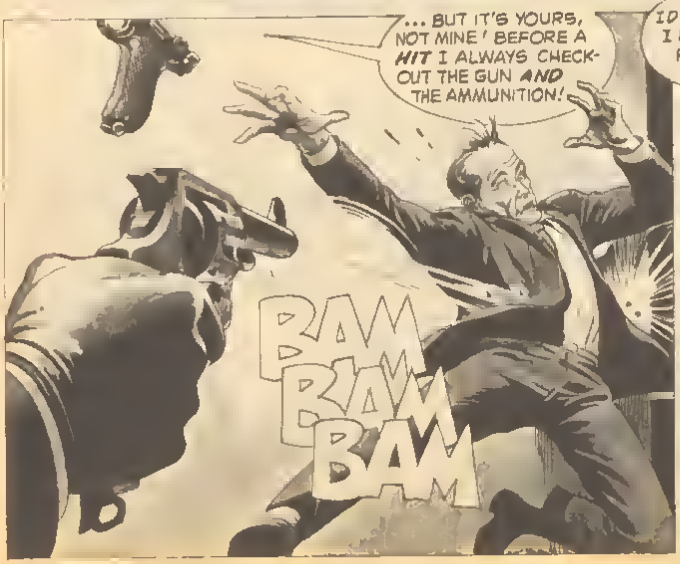
DON MORRICONE SENT ME...HE TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU THIS!

CLICK! CLICK!

I FIRED TWICE... BUT NOTHING HAPPENED!
IT'S THE GUN THE DON GAVE YOU...IT'S LOADED WITH DUMMY ROUNDS!
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, DESOTO!


YOU MEAN... DON MORRICONE HAD ME SET-UP?
YOU GOT IT, BIG MAN! ONCE YOU QUIT, THE DON COULDN'T RISK LEAVING YOU ALIVE! YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON WHO CAN LINK HIM WITH ALL THE EXECUTIONS HE ORDERED!

END OF THE LINE, DESOTO!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, WIZ ...


... BUT IT'S YOURS, NOT MINE! BEFORE A HIT I ALWAYS CHECK-OUT THE GUN AND THE AMMUNITION!
BAM BAM BAM

WHEN I REALIZED I'D BEEN DOUBLE-CROSSED I LEFT TWO BLANKS. THE REST I REPLACED!
THANKS, WIZ, YOU TOLD ME WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW... WHY THE DON WANTED ME DEAD!
THERE'S NOWHERE I CAN GO...!

NO OTHER MOB IN TOWN WILL HIRE ME AFTER KILLING SO MANY OF THEIR MEN! MY ONLY HOPE TO STAY ALIVE IS TO MAKE A DEAL... TURN MYSELF OVER TO THAT NEW UNTOUCHABLE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR ...SPILL EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT THE DON IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMUNITY!
--THAT'S RIGHT... TONY DESOTO! I WANT TO TALK TO PROSECUTOR HOLT AND NOBODY ELSE!
THIS IS HOLT! I'LL BE HAPPY TO TALK TO YOU, DESOTO! WHERE SHALL WE MEET?
HERE COMES HOLT NOW.. ALONE, JUST LIKE I ASKED!
I KNOW YOUR REPUTATION, HOLT.. A TOUGH COP SWORN TO RID CHICAGO OF MOBSTERS LIKE MORRICONE!
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE MISINFORMED ABOUT MY HONESTY...IT'S JUST A COVER! I WORK FOR THE DON!
SAY GOODBYE, TONY!
CHICAGO WAS A ROUGH TOWN IN THE LATE TWENTIES AND NOBODY KNEW THAT BETTER THAN TONY DESOTO!
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY USED TO SAY!

END

Goddess in a Kingdom of Trolls

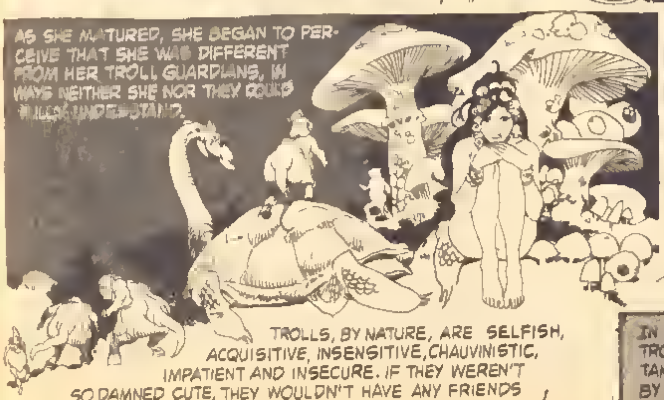
IN THE EARLY PART OF THE SUMMER, SADNESS CAME TO THE KINGDOM OF THE TROLLS. . NOT TO THE TROLLS THEMSELVES, BUT TO A ***GODDESS*** WHO WAS IN THEIR MIDST.

IT CAME ON A HOT, MUGGY DAY WHEN WHAT THE TROLLS REALLY WANTED TO DO WAS TAKE OFF THEIR CLOTHES AND GO DOWN TO THE SWIMMING PUDDLE (OF COURSE THEY COULDN'T BECAUSE TROLLS DON'T WEAR CLOTHES) THEY TRIED TO CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH SHEARING OFF EXCESS FUR, BUT AS EVERYONE KNOWS, TROLLS ARE ***NEVER*** CONTENT.

WHILE THEY GROWLED AND GRUMBLED ABOUT THE HUMIDITY, SADNESS CAME TO THE GODDESS, NONJA. THE TROLLS, WHEN THEY NOTICED HER MELANCHOLY, TRIED TO CHEER HER THEY DID DID CART WHEELS, MADE FACES, TOLD JOKES, AND DID FOLK-DANCES, BUT NONJA REMAINED MISTY-EYED.

EVEN MISTY-EYED, NONJA WAS AS FAIR A GODDESS AS THE TROLLS'D EVER SEEN, THOUGH ADMITTEDLY GODDESSES WERE RARE IN THESE PARTS BEAUTIFUL, SENSITIVE, HONEST, SHE MADE THE TROLLS FEEL LESS LIKE THE SCRUFFY CREATURES THEY WERE AND MORE LIKE... ***MEN.***

NONJA'S ***PARENTS*** WERE HUMAN THE TROLLS, AS THEY WERE WONT TO DO, HAD KIDNAPPED HER DURING INFANCY AND RAISED HER AS ONE OF THEIR OWN NONJA ASSIMILATED THEIR WAYS AND CUSTOMS, FOLLOWING THE ONLY EXAMPLE THAT HAD EVER BEEN SET FOR HER.



BROUGHT UP IN A GNOME-MAN'S LAND, IT SEEMED INEVITABLE THAT NONJA WOULD CHOOSE HER MATE FROM AMONG ITS DENIZENS. THERE WERE NO ***OTHER*** SPECIES IN SIGHT.

TROLLS, BY NATURE, ARE SELFISH, ACQUISITIVE, INSENSITIVE, CHAUVINISTIC, IMPATIENT AND INSECURE. IF THEY WEREN'T SO DAMNED CUTE, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS AT ALL NOT THAT THEY MEAN ANY ***HARM***. IN FACT, SOMETIMES THEY REALLY ***TRY*** TO BE NICE BUT THEY ARE PRONE TO ***MISCHIEF*** AND HAVE SHORT ATTENTION SPANS.

IN FACT, MORE THAN ONE TROLL ***HAD*** BEGGED HER TO TAKE THEM AS HER MATE, YET, BY THE TIME SHE DECIDED TO GIVE EACH A TRY HE HAD WANDERED OFF, DISTRACTED, TO BE WITH HIS OWN KIND, LEAVING NONJA TO PUZZLE ***WHY.***

STORY GERRY BOUDREAU/ART ESTEBAN MAROTO

AT FIRST, SHE BLAMED HERSELF FOR THE FAILED RELATIONSHIPS, BUT THE TRUTH WAS THIS: TROLLS ARE TROLLS, GODDESSES ARE GODDESSES. NEITHER CAN FULLY KNOW THE OTHER AND THEY CAN NEVER TRULY LOVE.
TROLLS CAN'T CHANGE THEIR NATURE ANYMORE THAN A ROCK OR TREE OR WATER OR GODDESS CAN INTELLIGENCE AND FREE WILL, NOTWITHSTANDING, WE ARE WHAT WE ARE BECAUSE WE ARE!
IT WAS A SIMPLE QUESTION OF IDENTITY. SHE WAS TRAPPED, DOOMED A GODDESS IN A KINGDOM OF TROLLS.
HYMIE THE WIZARD, A TROLL WHO WAS A LITTLE MORE CONCEITED, OBNOXIOUS AND SENILE THAN MOST, HAD SWORN TO MAKE NONJA HIS BRIDE, EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD REBUKED HIS EVERY ADVANCE.
SO, IT'S A HUMAN LOVER SHE WOULD HAVE! VERY WELL. AS LONG AS I WEAR THIS HAT I WILL LOOK LIKE A MAN! MAYBE THEN SHE WILL ACCEPT ME!
POFF
MEANWHILE, NONJA REALIZED THAT ANY HOPE OF FINDING A SUITABLE MATE LAY OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM OF THE TROLLS...
.. SO BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE LAND OF HER YOUTH, SHE BRAVELY SET OUT FOR THE WOODS AND WHATEVER DESTINY AWAITED HER.
EXCELLENT! MY GREATEST ILLUSION TO DATE! SURELY EVEN A GODDESS COULDN'T RESIST ONE SO HANDSOME, SO VIRILE, SO--
SHE'S GONE!
HOW COULD SHE DO THIS TO ME? NOW.. WHEN I'VE FINALLY FOUND THE RIGHT PATH! WHY?
POP!
POP!
WAIT FOOTPRINTS, LEADING INTO THE WOODS! SHE COULD GET LOST OR HURT OR WORSE,- SHE COULD FIND A REAL HUMAN! I'D BETTER GO AFTER HER!
JING

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, NONJA REGRETTED HER DECISION TO LEAVE THE KINGDOM OF TROLLS. BACK IN HER ADOPTED HOME, IT WAS *SAFE*. THE TROLLS, AS A RULE, OFFERED HER PROTECTION AND SECURITY, IN LIEU OF HONEST LOVE. BUT OUT HERE, SHE HAD NEITHER.

EVEN AT THE HEIGHT OF DAY, IT WAS DARK. TREES LINED THE PATH LIKE MATCHSTICKS, AND A GREY, SWIRLING FOG OBSCURED THE ROAD AHEAD. SHE COULD BARELY DISTINGUISH SILHOUETTES ON THE HORIZON, SO SHE WALKED CAUTIOUSLY, LIKE A SWIMMER EASING INTO A POOL OF COLD WATER.

SHE THOUGHT OF TURNING BACK, BUT SHE ALREADY KNEW WHAT LAY BEHIND HER. THE PROSPECT OF ADVENTURE AND DISCOVERY URGED HER FORWARD. FINALLY, DUSK-SHADOWS SETTLED IN, AND AT SUNSET, SHE DECIDED SHE'D TRAVELLED ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY.

SHE LAY DOWN TO REST AMONG THE LEAVES.

DURING THE NIGHT, A HUNTER PASSED HER WAY... A HARD, SCRUFFY MAN OF EARTH WHO CARRIED BOW AND ARROWS, WHICH SHE'D NEVER BEFORE SEEN.

A WOMAN, SLEEPING ALONE IN THE FOREST! DON'T YOU KNOW HOW ***DANGEROUS*** IT IS? THERE'RE WILD ANIMALS AND TROLLS ALONG THIS ROAD, JUST WAITING TO DO YOU ***HARM!***

WHO ***ARE*** YOU?

A SIMPLE MAN... A HUNTER CALLED ***GORE.***

ARE YOU ***LOST.?***

NO. I'M LOOKING FOR SOME ***ONE*** RATHER THAN SOME ***PLACE.***

NONJA COULDN'T SAY WHY, BUT SHE FELT INTIMIDATED BY GORE. HE WAS THE ***FIRST*** HUMAN SHE HAD ENCOUNTERED SINCE INFANCY... HE SEEMED STRANGE, ALIEN, NOTHING LIKE THE TROLLS.

SO WHEN HE LEANED FORWARD TO KISS HER, SHE INSTINCTIVELY BACKED AWAY.

HER REACTION TO HIM WAS AMBIVALENT. ON ONE HAND, HE WAS A NEW AND FASCINATING CREATURE. ON THE OTHER, HE WAS DISAPPOINTING. HUMANS AREN'T AS MAGICAL OR PLAYFUL AS TROLLS. GORE WAS MOODY AND TENDED TOWARD SOMETIMES UNSETTLING SILENCES.

DON'T BE OFFENDED. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SHARED HUMAN COMPANIONSHIP. IT WILL TAKE SOME GETTING ***USED*** TO.

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT. YOU'LL FIND THAT HUMANS HAVE A LOT MORE ***PATIENCE*** THAN TROLLS.

BEFORE LONG, NONJA AGAIN DRIFTED INTO SLEEP. GORE WATCHED OVER HER, AND TOOK SIMPLE PLEASURE IN THE GENTLE STIRRINGS OF THE BEAUTIFUL GODDESS AS SHE DREAMED HER *RESTLESS* DREAMS ABOUT TROLLS AND MEN.

IN THE MORNING, THE SUN FILTERED THROUGH THE TREES, AND AGAIN LIT THE PATH.

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE FOREST, AND FURTHER MY OWN *QUEST*, I SUPPOSE.

VERY WELL. JUST TAKE CARE THAT YOU *RECOGNIZE* THE OBJECT OF YOUR QUEST WHEN YOU SEE IT. IF YOU PASS IT BY ONCE, YOU COULD SEARCH FOREVER WITHOUT FINDING IT AGAIN.

NONJA BID FAREWELL TO GORE AND WENT ON HER WAY. HE CONTINUED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, TRACKING A FEROCIOUS *BEAST* WHOSE TRAIL HE'D BEEN FOLLOWING FOR DAYS

NONJA WAS SLOWING REALIZING THAT NO TROLL MAGIC NO ILLUSIONS COULD RIVAL THE WONDER OF *LIFE*, THE NATURAL ORDER OF CREATION OF WHICH SHE WAS *A PART*

SO LOST IN THESE THOUGHTS WAS NONJA THAT SHE DIDN'T HEAR THE APPROACH OF THE *BEAST*

HELP!

GROOWWLLL

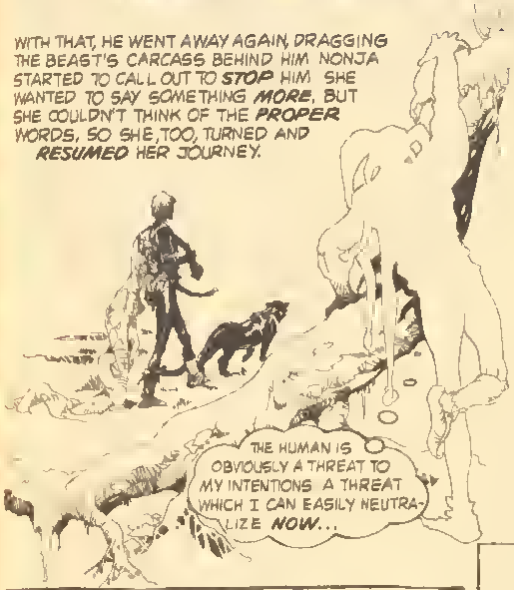
RRROAR

AAAARRRGH

SKIT

YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME!
NO, I WAS FOLLOWING HIM THAT'S THE BEAST I'VE BEEN TRACKING FOR NEARLY A FORTNIGHT IT WAS FORTUNATE I ARRIVED WHEN I DID
YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE

FOR THE PRESENT, THAT'S ENOUGH


WITH THAT, HE WENT AWAY AGAIN, DRAGGING THE BEAST'S CARCASS BEHIND HIM NONJA STARTED TO CALL OUT TO STOP HIM SHE WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING MORE, BUT SHE COULDN'T THINK OF THE PROPER WORDS, SO SHE, TOO, TURNED AND RESUMED HER JOURNEY.
THE HUMAN IS OBVIOUSLY A THREAT TO MY INTENTIONS A THREAT WHICH I CAN EASILY NEUTRALIZE NOW...

...WITH A SPELL OF IMMOBILITY!
POP
POP
NOW THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN SAY OR DO TO INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS! THE GODDESS WILL YET BE MINE!

NONJA WALKED WELL INTO THE AFTERNOON HER FEET WERE GROWING SORE AND SHE WAS HUNGRY
THE DEEPER SHE GOT INTO THE WOODS, THE MORE SHE THOUGHT ABOUT GORE SHE WAS ALMOST READY TO TURN BACK AND SEEK HIM OUT WHEN...
GOOD DAY, BEAUTIFUL GOODESS...!

WHO ARE YOU?
A RICH AND POWERFUL PRINCE, AS HANDSOME AN ELIGIBLE BACHELOR AS CAN BE FOUND IN THESE PARTS.
THE WIZARD WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...IT WAS HIS BEST ILLUSION.

SO GOOD THAT NONJA NEVER NOTICED THAT THE REFLECTION CAST UPON THE WATER WAS THAT OF HYMIE THE TROLL-WIZARD, AND NOT A PRINCE AT ALL
COME, LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND MY KINGDOM
THE PLAIN TRUTH, WAS NONJA SAW WHAT SHE WANTED TO SEE. HE WAS EXACTLY THE SORT OF MAN SHE'D HOPED TO FIND. HER IDEALS PERSONIFIED, SO SHE NEVER STOPPED TO QUESTION HIS VALIDITY, WHICH WAS OF COURSE WHAT THE WIZARD HAD COUNTED ON.
DEEPER INTO THE FOREST HE LED HER, TAKING PAINS TO STEER HER FROM THE DIRECTION WHERE GORE STOOD FROZEN.
THIS RICH LAND WILL BE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS! VASSALS AND SLAVES SHALL YOU COMMAND! YOU WILL WANT FOR NO EARTHLY POSSESSIONS, IF YOU CONSENT TO BE MY BRIDE!
BUT PRINCE, YOU SAID NOTHING ABOUT LOVE!
MY LOVE WILL ALWAYS BE YOURS, WHETHER YOU ACCEPT MY PROPOSAL OR NOT!
NONJA SMILED, ENCHANTED, AND HYMIE GREW MORE CONFIDENT OF HIS VICTORY.
LIKE ALL TROLLS, HE WAS EXPERT AT TELLING PEOPLE WHAT THEY WISHED TO HEAR.
HE WAS LIKE A PACKAGE THAT HAD BEEN BEAUTIFULLY GIFT-WRAPPED BUT WAS EMPTY INSIDE. SOMEHOW NONJA SENSED THIS, AND TACTFULLY EVADED HIS PROPOSAL.
I AM HUNGRY MY PRINCE.
THEN I SHALL FIND FOOD FOR YOU, MY BELOVED. STAY HERE AND REST... I'LL RETURN SHORTLY.
HYMIE, OLD BOY, WHY DIDN'T YOU THINK OF THIS BEFORE? HOW EASY IT IS TO DECEIVE HUMANS AND GODDESSES, BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BE DECEIVED!
THEY SPEND THEIR WHOLE LIVES SEEKING SECURITY, POWER, AND COMFORT, WHICH ARE ILLUSIONS IN THEMSELVES! IT'S THIS DESIRE FOR ILLUSION THAT MAKES THEM EASY TO MANIPULATE!
HIS BASKET FILLED TO BRIMMING, HYMIE STARTED HIS RETURN WHEN...
THE SWEETEST MUSIC I'VE EVER HEARD! IT'S COMING FROM THAT DIRECTION!

LIKE A SIREN SONG, THE EERIE, HAUNTING MELODY DRIFTED CARRIED BY THE GENTLE SUMMER BREEZE. THE WIZARD PRINCE PAUSED, LISTENED CLOSELY, AND TRACED THE SOUND TO ITS SOURCE

A WOMAN! THE MOST BEAUTIFUL I'VE EVER SEEN!

THAT WASN'T ENTIRELY TRUE, BUT TROLLS BEING FICKLE, HE REACTED TRUE TO HIS NATURE

GOOD DAY, BEAUTIFUL GODDESS..

WHO ARE YOU?

A RICH AND POWERFUL PRINCE, AS HANDSOME AN ELIGIBLE BACHELOR AS CAN BE FOUND IN THESE PARTS

HE USED THAT LINE BEFORE, BUT IT WORKED ONCE, SO HE SAW NO REASON NOT TO REPEAT IT.

ABSENTLY, THE WIZARD PUT DOWN THE BASKET OF FRUIT.

ALL THOUGHTS OF NONJA AND HER HUNGER VANISHED FROM HIS MIND. WHAT REMAINED WAS THE OVERWHELMING AND UNSUPRESSABLE DESIRE HE FELT FOR THIS NEW CREATURE.

COME .LET ME SHOW YOU MY KINGDOM!

THE DAY YIELDED TO NIGHT AND STARS SHONE IN A CLEAR, SUMMER SKY. NONJA SAT WHERE THE WIZARD HAD LEFT HER.

HE'S TAKEN FAR TOO LONG SOMETHING'S HAPPENED! PERHAPS A WILD BEAST DEVOURED HIM, OR WORSE!

GIVING NO THOUGH TO HER SAFETY, SHE SET OUT IN SEARCH OF HIM.

SOON ENOUGH, SHE FOUND HIM AND JUMPING UP, HIS HAT FELL OFF!

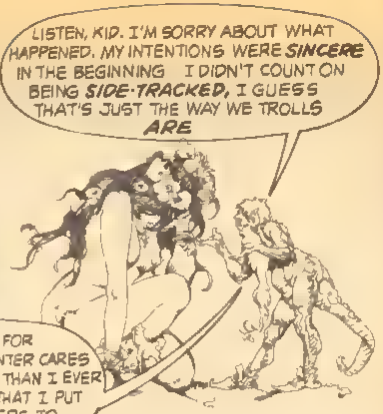
POP

MY PRINCE!

POP

WHY YOU'RE NOT A PRINCE ...YOU'RE HYMIE THE WIZARD. JUST ANOTHER TROLL!

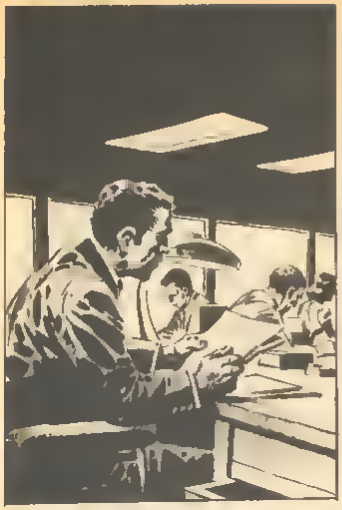
TEARS FILLED HER SOFT EYES. SHE WANTED TO LOSE HERSELF IN THE FOREST, TO HIDE TO BE FREE OF BOTH MEN AND TROLLS.
SLOW DOWN! LET ME EXPLAIN!

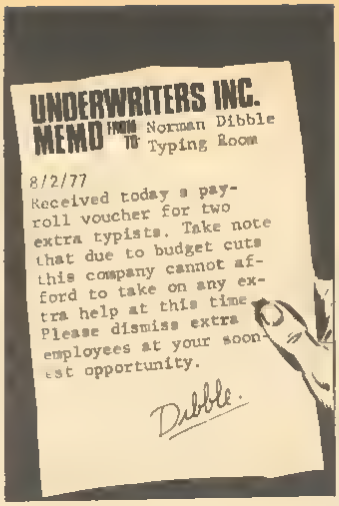

LISTEN, KID. I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. MY INTENTIONS WERE SINCERE IN THE BEGINNING I DIDN'T COUNT ON BEING SIDE-TRACKED, I GUESS THAT'S JUST THE WAY WE TROLLS ARE

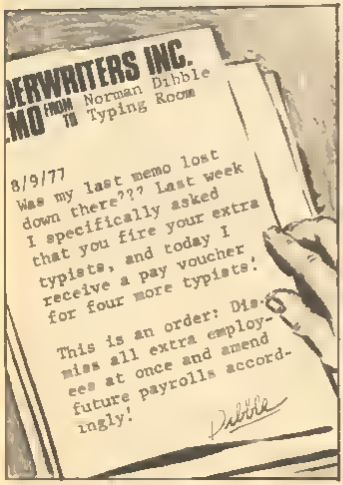
KONJA AGREED TO DO AS THE WIZARD SUGGESTED. FOR, IN THE END, SHE KNEW HE WAS RIGHT. AT LEAST WITH GORE, THERE'D BE NO ILLUSIONS, NO DECEPTIONS
AND HE WAS ONE OF HER OWN KIND HE COULD UNDERSTAND HER, APPRECIATE HER AS NO TROLL COULD.
TELL YOU WHAT I'LL DO FOR YOU, THOUGH GORE, THE HUNTER CARES ABOUT YOU, PROBABLY MORE THAN I EVER COULD. I'LL UNDO THE SPELL THAT I PUT HIM UNDER AND TELL YOU WHERE TO FIND HIM.
A TROLL! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY PRINCE?
I'VE A CONFESSION TO MAKE THERE NEVER WAS A PRINCE. HE WAS JUST ME IN DISGUISE. I'VE CAUSED ENOUGH PAIN FOR ONE DAY I GUESS I JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT I AM A TROLL, AND ALWAYS WILL BE.

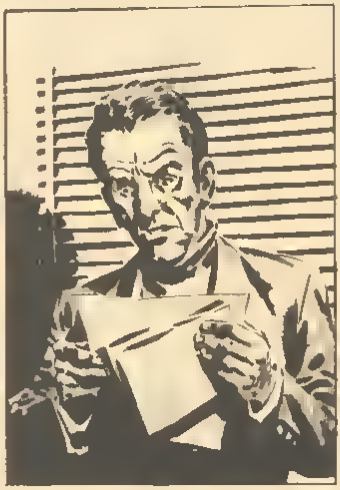
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. I WAS A SORCERESS LIKE YOURSELF. I THOUGHT I COULD ACHIEVE HIGHER STATUS BY FINDING A HUMAN LOVER, BUT WHAT DID I END UP WITH? ANOTHER TROLL!
FACE IT, FRIEND NO MATTER HOW CLEVER WE THINK WE ARE DESTINY WILL STILL HAVE IT'S WAY WITH US WE MAY AS WELL STOP FIGHTING IT.

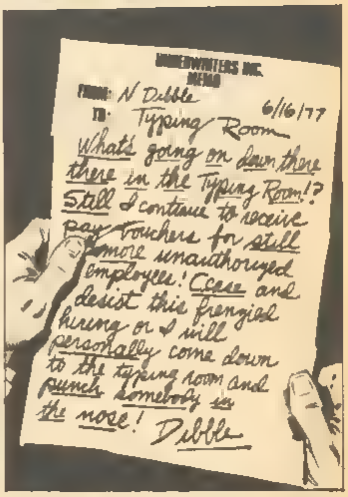
END

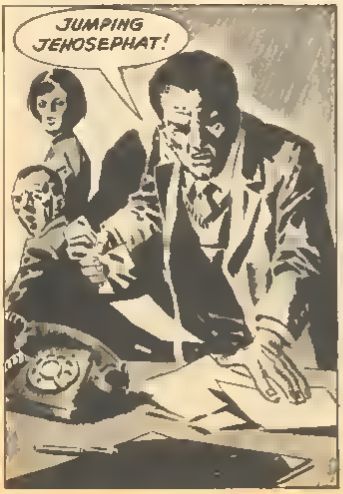



UNDERWRITERS INC.
MEMO FROM Norman Dibble
TO Typing Room
8/2/77
Received today a payroll voucher for two extra typists. Take note that due to budget cuts this company cannot afford to take on any extra help at this time. Please dismiss extra employees at your soonest opportunity.
Dibble.


DERWRITERS INC.
MO FROM Norman Dibble
TO Typing Room
8/9/77
Was my last memo lost down there??? Last week I specifically asked that you fire your extra typists, and today I receive a pay voucher for four more typists!
This is an order: Dismiss all extra employees at once and amend future payrolls accordingly!
Dibble




UNDERWRITERS INC.
MEMO
FROM: N Dibble
TO: Typing Room
6/16/77
What's going on down there in the Typing Room!? Still I continue to receive pay vouchers for still more unauthorized employees! Cease and desist this frenzied hiring or I will personally come down to the typing room and punch somebody in the nose! Dibble


JUMPING JEHOSEPHAT!

WHERE TO, NORMAN?
TAKE ME TO THE TYPING ROOM! GRRRR!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTE--
DON'T TALK TO ME!

NOW SEE HERE..!

STORY JIM STENSTRUM/ART JOSE SANCHEZ

RINNNGGG
OH! WHAT DO YOU KNOW! IT'S QUITTING TIME ALREADY!

WELL, CERTAINLY NICE TALKING TO YOU, NORMAN. PLEASE STOP BY AND SEE US AGAIN ANYTIME!
SO LONG NORMAN!
DON'T BOTHER TO THANK US
GOTTA RUN NOW, BUDDY BOY!
WAIT WAIT
WE'RE HAPPY TO HELP YOU OUT, NORMAN!

KINGS COURT RESTAU

A TABLE IN THE BACK, SIDNEY AWAY FROM THE CROWD, PLEASE
VERY GOOD MR DIBBLE THIS WAY

NO. NO MORE COFFEE, PLEASE. I'VE HAD ENOU--
NO!
SAY WHEN, NORMAN!

DRINK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NO, LEAVE MY FOOD ALONE!
LENTELS! MAKE HIM EAT HIS LENTELS!
WE JUST WANT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU NORMAN!
CHOW DOWN, NORMAN!
HAVE SOME MORE POTATOES, NORMAN!
THERE'S PLENTY WHERE THAT CAME FROM!
LOOK HERE, NORMAN!
YUMMY!
MEAT TO EAT!
HAVE MORE NORMAN!

STOP! STOP! YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MESS!
LOOK WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO ME!
EVERBODY OUT! OUT!

GEE WHIZ
WHAT A GROUCH!
TRY N HELP A GUY.
AND STAY OUT!

WELL THIS IS REALLY RIDICULOUS!
ALL DAY LONG I'VE BEEN RUNNING INTO PEOPLE AND NOW .. NOBODY ON THE SUBWAY! JUST THAT FELLOW OVER THERE!
WHAT A RELIEF TO BE ALONE FOR A MINUTE!

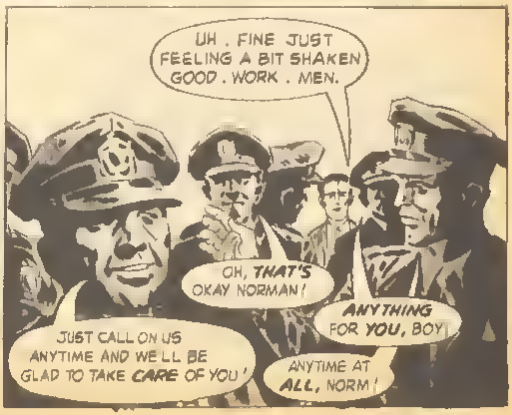
GIMME YER DOUGH!
(SIGH) IT FIGURES

POLICE! STOP THAT MAN! HE ROBBED ME!

IT'S NORMAN!
HE'S IN TROUBLE!
WE GOTTA HELP HIM!
LET'S GET THAT CROOK!
BEAT HIS BRAINS IN!
C'MON, FELLOWS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP IT! YOU'RE KILLING THE MAN!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, NORMAN!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING!
WE'RE TENDING TO HIM!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
SMASH HIM, BOYS!
GIVE THAT CROOK WHAT FOR!
POUND HIS HEAD!
THEY STOP MOVING WHEN YOU POUND THEIR HEADS!

HERE'S YOUR WALLET, NORMAN.
AND HERE'S WHAT'S LEFT OF THE ROBBER! WE'LL THROW THE BOOK AT HIM!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NORMAN?


UH. FINE JUST FEELING A BIT SHAKEN GOOD. WORK. MEN.
OH, THAT'S OKAY NORMAN!
ANYTHING FOR YOU, BOY!
JUST CALL ON US ANYTIME AND WE'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!
ANYTIME AT ALL, NORM!

KNOCK KNOCK
W-WHO'S THERE?
IT'S THE MAID, SIR! I'M HERE TO CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
BUT SIR! IT MUST BE A SQUALOR IN THERE!

I LIKE SQUALOR! I THRIVE ON SQUALOR! I CAN'T IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT SQUALOR!
BUT SOMEBODY HAS TO TAKE CARE OF YOU, SIR!
HMPH! THAT'S THE LEAST OF MY WORRIES! NOW GO AWAY!

SHE'S RIGHT, THOUGH I'M LETTING MYSELF GO TO PIECES.
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! FIND SOME WAY OUT OF THIS PREDICAMENT I CAN'T FIGHT THEM HOLED UP IN HERE LIKE A RAT!

SPEAKING OF RATS— I WONDER WHAT I LOOK LIKE IT'S BEEN DAYS

AHHHHHHHHHHH

OH! IT'S ONLY THE MIRROR BEHIND YOU, REFLECTING YOURSELF BACK AND FORTH TO THIS MIRROR HERE
IDIOT!

IT'S ALL CLEAR. NOW TO MAKE IT TO THE ELEVATOR

CAN I TAKE YOUR BAG, SIR?
HUH?

NO! NO! NO!
WHAT DO YOU PEOPLE WANT FROM ME?!
WE WANT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU, NORMAN!
I GOT HIS BAG!
NORMAN LOOKS ILL!
JUST LEAVE IT TO US, PAL!
SOMEBODY GET A HOT WATER BOTTLE!
POOR NORMAN!
HERE, NORMAN! BUNDLE UP IN MY OVERCOAT!

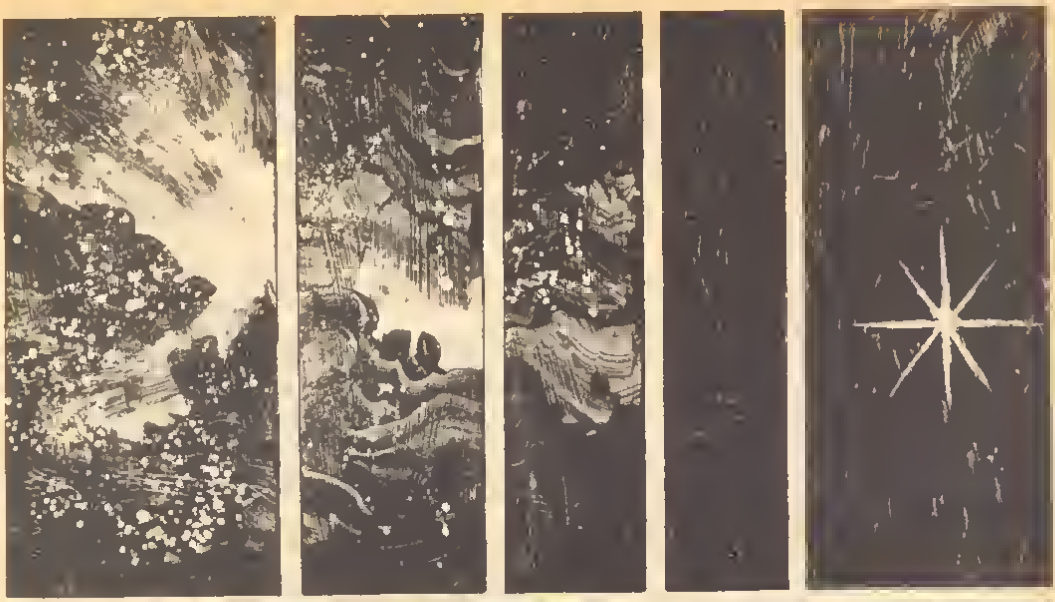
WAIT! NO! WE CAN'T ALL GET ON THE ELEVATOR!
GET BACK! GET BACK!!
HERE'S A THERMOMETER!
OPEN WIDE, NORMAN!
POOR SICK, SICK NORMAN!
NO!!

SNAP
SNAPP
BOING

AHHHHHHHHHH

MR DIBBLE ? MR DIBBLE ? ARE YOU THERE ?
Y-YES... I'M-I'M DEAD, AREN'T I ?
NO, FAR FROM THAT, MR DIBBLE YOU'RE IN A HOSPITAL YOU'VE HAD A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT IN AN ELEVATOR
OHHH YES, I REMEMBER
THOSE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE ELEVATOR... ARE THEY ALL RIGHT ?
OTHERS ? NO OTHERS, MR DIBBLE WE ONLY FOUND YOU IN THE WRECKAGE.
THEN... THEN IT WAS ALL JUST A BAD DREAM ! I DREAMED IT ALL UP !
WHEW ! THANK GOD !
NURSE YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE THE NIGHTMARE I HAD !
EVERYWHERE I WENT ALL THESE PEOPLE WOULD FOLLOW ME DOZENS OF THEM ! HUNDREDS OF THEM !
SOUNDS LIKE A PIP MR DIBBLE
UM, NURSE... THIS OPERATION OF MINE- IS IT--
JUST MINOR SURGERY, MR DIBBLE THAT'S ALL NOW TAKE A DEEP BREATH...
OH... GOOD, GOOD...
DON'T WORRY, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF YOU !
ME !
LET ME DO HIS BRAIN !
I'M BEST AT BRAINS !
REAL GOOD CARE !
WHO'S GOING TO OPERATE ON NORMAN FIRST ?
I AM !
ME !
NO, ME !
NO, ME !
I GET HIS HEART THEN !
I GET HIS HEART NEXT !
NO, ME !
DON'T PUSH WE'LL ALL GET OUR CHANCE TO HELP NORMAN !
BUT I WANT TO HELP NORMAN HE'S MY FRIEND TOO !

END



The Generations of Noah

STORY ROGER McKENZIE/ART LEO DURANONA

A LOSS TO EXPLAIN THE SUDDEN *DISAPPEARANCE* OF MOST OF THE KNOWN CONSTELLATIONS. IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED, BY ONE SCIENTIST, AS APPARANTLY SOME SORT OF *BLIGHT* SWEEPING THROUGH THE GALAXY WITH UNBELIEVABLE *SPEED*. THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED FOR A FULL CONGRESSIONAL *INVESTIGATION* TO--

'KARUMPHH'--! IN-VES-TI-GA-SHUN MY--! PROB'LY JEST A NUDDER *COMMIE PLOT...*

..I ALLAYS SAID, YOU CAIN'T *TRUST* THEM RUS--

GREAT GAWD-A-MIGHTY! WHUT'S *THET!?*

WWWHHOOOSSSCRRRAAAKKKKK

..TUNED FOR MORE *DETAILS* AS SOON AS THEY ARE *AVAILABLE*. NOW BACK TO *COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE*--

MINDY JANE--! GIT OUT HEAH AN' LOOKIT THIS!

YOU *HEAH* ME, GIRL? *MINDY?*

...WAS WILLIE PLUNKETT'S NUMBER ONE HIT, 'MOMMA WAS A TRUCK DRIVER, BUT DADDY COULDN'T GET IT INTO GEAR!'--

S-SHE'S *GONE--!*

I SWEAR...IF'IN SHE'S *RUNNED* OFF'IN AGAIN TO SEE THET NO-COUNT *TIPTON* BOAH, I'M GONNA GIVE 'ER A *TANNIN'* SHE WON'T BE QUICK TO *FERGIT...*

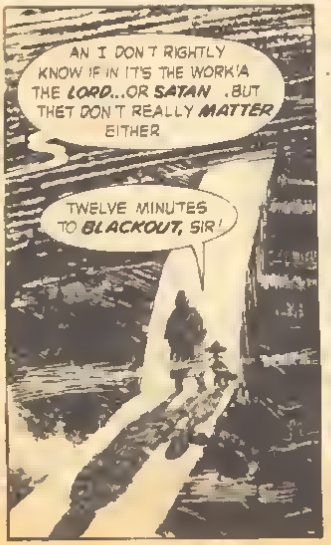
...FACT IS, I'LL GIVE 'EM *BOTH* SOMETHIN' TO *'MEMBER!*

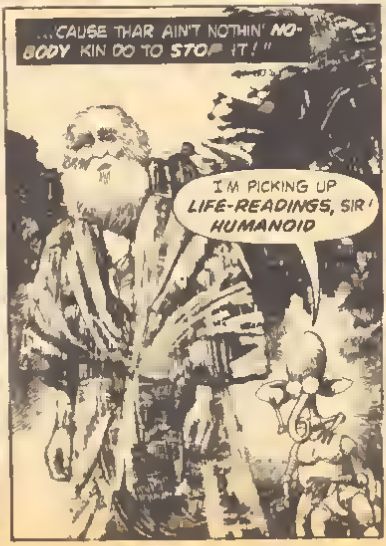
KLIKK

OH, JIMMY! I I LOVE YOU! WHY CAIN'T POPPA ACCEPT THAT?
MINDY LISSEN TO ME!

DID YOU SEE THET THET FIREBALL WHIZ BY HEAH, GIRL? IT'S THE END, MINDY! THE END...

...AN' IT DON'T MATTER A WHIT BOUT YOAH POPPA... OR US...OR NOTHIN' ANYMOAH. THE STARS 're DYIN' GIRL EVER'THIN'S A DYIN' 'CHOKE'...


AN I DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW IF IN IT'S THE WORK'A THE LORD...OR SATAN .BUT THET DON'T REALLY MATTER EITHER
TWELVE MINUTES TO BLACKOUT, SIR!


...CAUSE THAR AIN'T NOTHIN' NOBODY KIN DO TO STOP IT!"
I'M PICKING UP LIFE-READINGS, SIR! HUMANOID

WHUT MATTERS, GIRL IS THET WE'RE TOGETHER AN'--HUH--?
SOMEONE'S COMIN', JIMMY!
KRAK

P-POPPA--? IS THET YOU, POPPA? PLEASE .YOU DON'T UNDERSTAN', BOUT JIMMY AN' ME IT AIN'T THET I'M GOIN' AGIN YOAH WISHES, POPPA!
KREKK
KRAKK!
THEY RE RUNNING, SIR! SHALL I--?
WE DONE TRIED TALKIN', MINDY. THET DON'T DO NO GOOD C'MON.

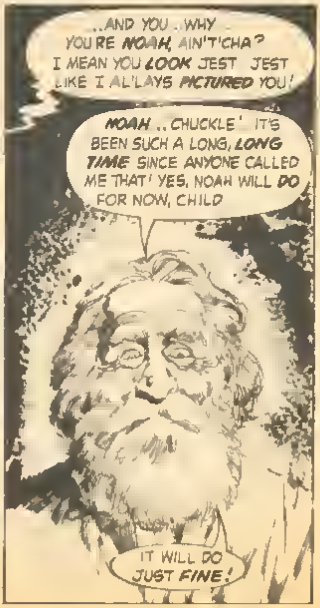
NO, BREEN. WE CAN'T RISK POSSIBLE INJURY NOT NOW.. THERE JUST ISN'T TIME...!
OF COURSE SIR!

BBZTZ
PPP
I THINK PERHAPS WE'D BEST DO THIS MY WAY!

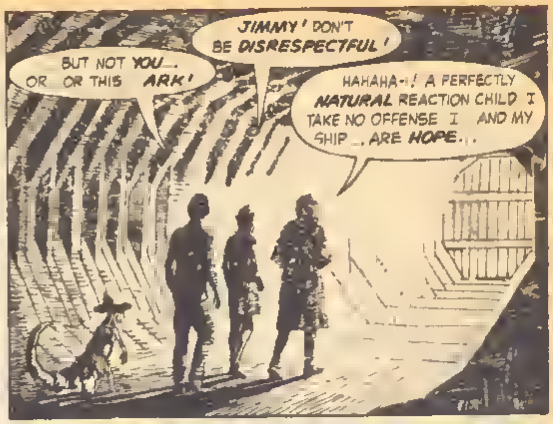
FORGIVE ME MY CHILDREN. THE STASIS FIELD WAS NECESSARY TO KEEP YOU FROM RUNNING AWAY, BUT I WE MEAN YOU NO HARM!
EIGHT MINUTES LEFT, SIR
ZZZTZ
ZZZZTT

PLEASE THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME LEFT US AND SO VERY MUCH TO DO I WILL RELEASE YOU NOW, FOR WE MUST TALK!
OHHH--! WHO WHAT--?

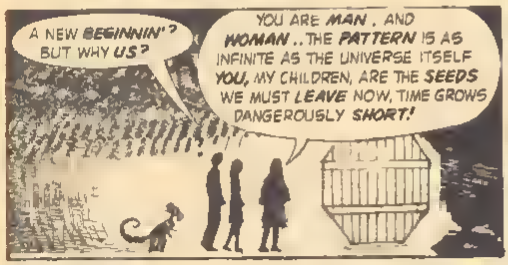
THIS IS MY FIRST MATE, BREEN AND I
CHARMED!


..AND YOU..WHY YOU'RE NOAH, AIN'T'CHA? I MEAN YOU LOOK JEST JEST LIKE I AL'LAYS PICTURED YOU!
NOAH..CHUCKLE! IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG, LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE CALLED ME THAT! YES, NOAH WILL DO FOR NOW, CHILD
IT WILL DO JUST FINE!

AND SO, THE FLOOD RETURNS BUT THIS TIME, SADLY ON A COSMIC SCALE...
THEN THAT EXPLAINS...THE STARS...

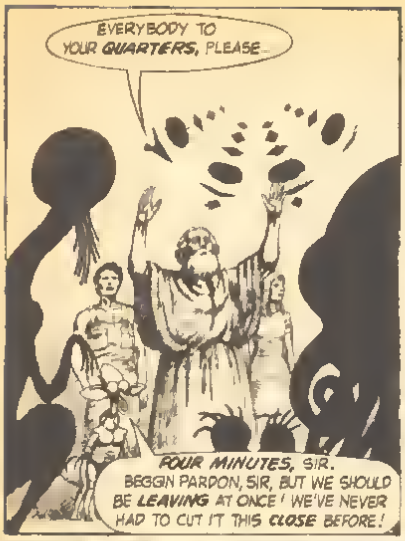

JIMMY! DON'T BE DISRESPECTFUL!
BUT NOT YOU... OR OR THIS ARK!
HAHAHA-! A PERFECTLY NATURAL REACTION CHILD I TAKE NO OFFENSE I AND MY SHIP ... ARE HOPE...

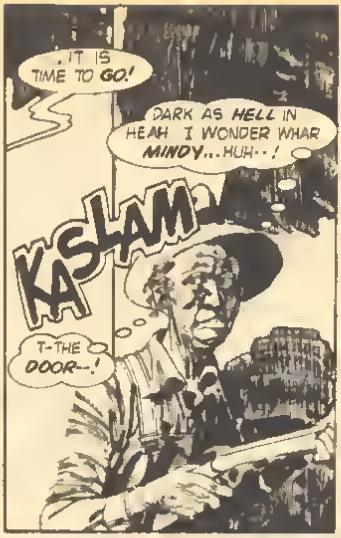
.WE RIDE THE CREST OF THE WAVE, COLLECTING THE SEEDS OF A NEW BEGINNING!
MY GAWD--'CHOKE'--! WHUT IS THET THING I SEEN MUH MINDY A'GETTIN' INTO?


A NEW BEGINNIN'? BUT WHY US?
YOU ARE MAN, AND WOMAN..THE PATTERN IS AS INFINITE AS THE UNIVERSE ITSELF YOU, MY CHILDREN, ARE THE SEEDS WE MUST LEAVE NOW, TIME GROWS DANGEROUSLY SHORT!

BUT SUPPOSIN' WE DON'T WANNA GO?
YOU WOULD STAY, FACING CERTAIN DEATH? NO, I AM AFRAID I COULD NOT ALLOW THAT. NOW, PLEASE, PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE!

THESE ARE MY CHILDREN ...MY FRIENDS ..MY HOPE!
'CHOKE'--!
BING QURTI KRW BVB
YOM

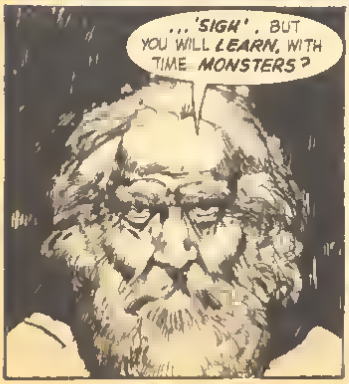

EVERYBODY TO YOUR QUARTERS, PLEASE...
FOUR MINUTES, SIR. BEGGIN PARDON, SIR, BUT WE SHOULD BE LEAVING AT ONCE! WE'VE NEVER HAD TO CUT IT THIS CLOSE BEFORE!


...IT IS TIME TO GO!
DARK AS HELL IN HEAH I WONDER WHAR MINDY... HUH...!
KASLAM
T-THE DOOR--!

IT'S SHET TIGHT! I CAIN'T OPEN IT!

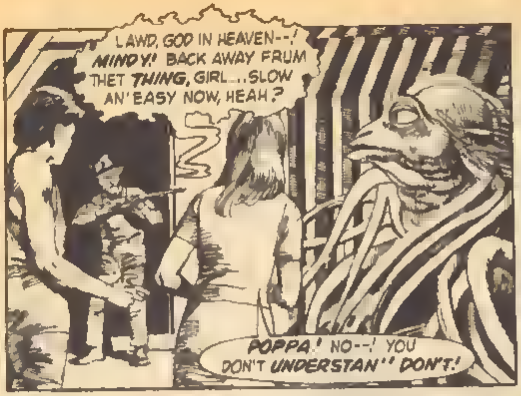
YOU CHILDREN REMAIN WITH ME. ONCE WE ARE UNDERWAY WE WILL SEE ABOUT GETTING YOU BOTH SETTLED IN.
PREPARE TO CAST OFF, BREEN!
VERY GOOD, SIR!
THEY'RE ...MONSTERS, JIMMY ...ALL MONSTERS! I-I'M FRIGHTENED!
SHUSH, GIRL!

I WILL NOT TOLERATE SUCH TALK ABOARD MY VESSEL CHILD. THEY ARE NO MORE MONSTERS THAN YOU. MERELY DIFFERENT.
EACH, YOU COULD SAY, REPRESENT THE GENERATIONS OF NOAH...


...'SIGH'. BUT YOU WILL LEARN, WITH TIME. MONSTERS?

CAN YOU SAY TRULY...

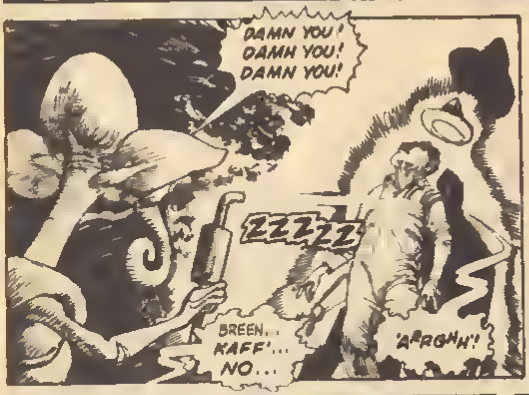
...THAT THEY ARE ANY WORSE THAN I?


LAWD, GOD IN HEAVEN--! MINDY! BACK AWAY FRUM THET THING, GIRL...SLOW AN' EASY NOW, HEAH?
POPPA! NO--! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAN'' DON'T!

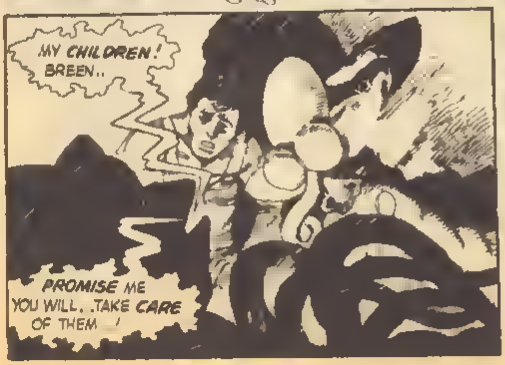
PLEASE, POPPA.. DON'T...
BLAM
...DON'T SHOOT--!

SHBLAM
'UNGHH'--!

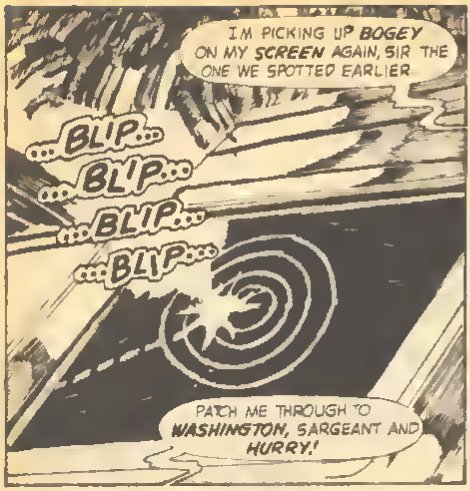
OH, GOD!

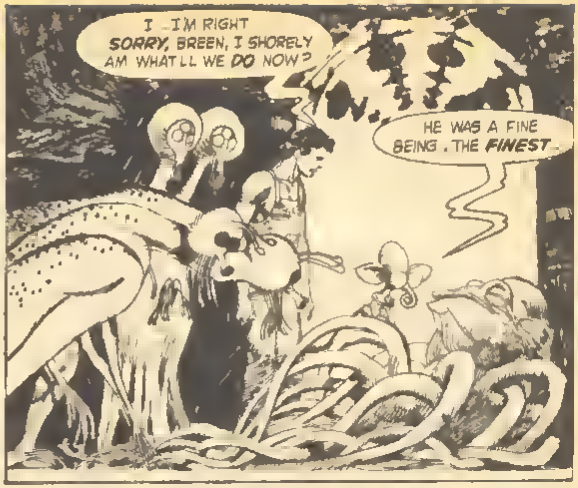

DAMN YOU! DAMN YOU! DAMN YOU!
ZZZZZ
BREEN.. KAFF'... NO...
'ARRGHH'!

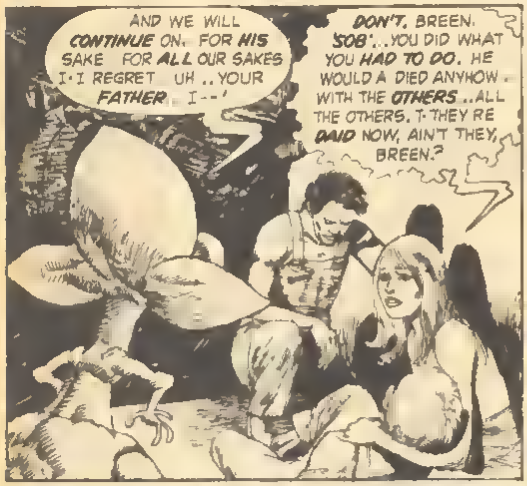
...P-PLEASE 'KAFF'..NO MORE KILLING...N-NO MORE...
NOAH? YOU CAIN'T BE DYIN'.. KIN YOU?

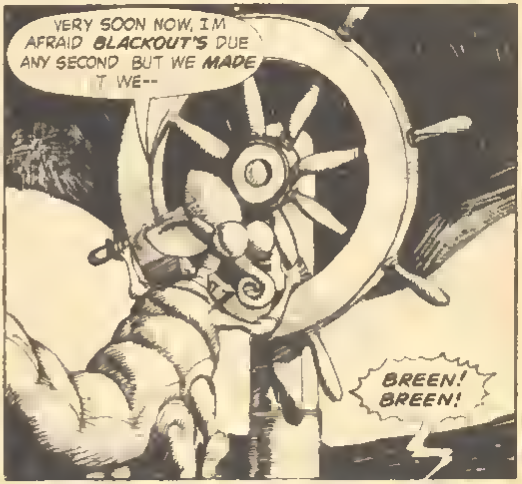

MY CHILDREN! BREEN..
PROMISE ME YOU WILL..TAKE CARE OF THEM!

BLIP..BLIP..BLIP..BLIP..BLIP..BLIP...
..THEY ARE THE HOPE THE LIFE-BEARERS... NOTHING MUST HAPPEN.. TO THEM--
V-VERY GOOD, SIR--' SIR?

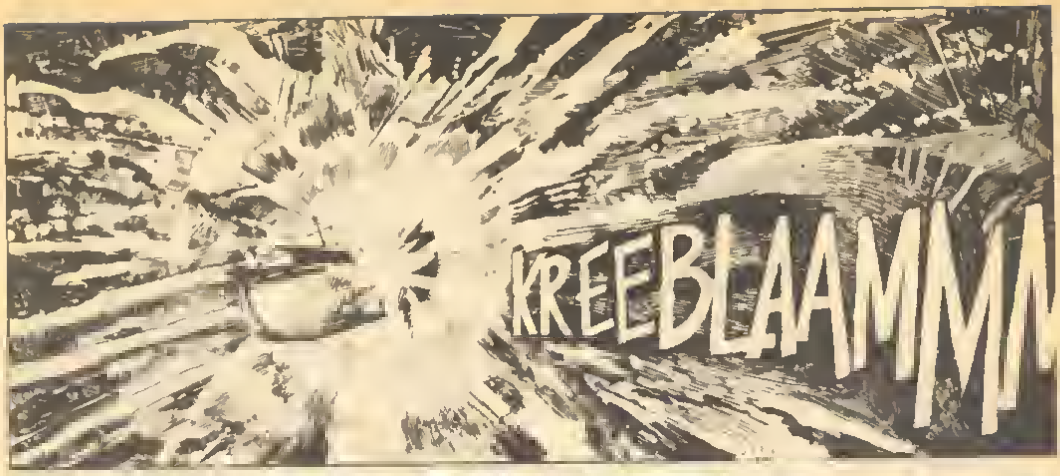

I'M PICKING UP BOGEY ON MY SCREEN AGAIN, SIR THE ONE WE SPOTTED EARLIER
...BLIP...
...BLIP...
...BLIP...
...BLIP...
PATCH ME THROUGH TO WASHINGTON, SARGEANT AND HURRY!


I - I'M RIGHT SORRY, BREEN, I SHORELY AM WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?
HE WAS A FINE BEING . THE FINEST

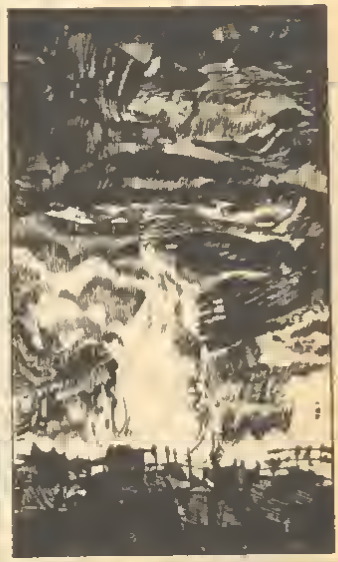

AND WE WILL CONTINUE ON. FOR HIS SAKE FOR ALL OUR SAKES I-I REGRET UH ..YOUR FATHER I--'
DON'T, BREEN. 'SOB'...YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO. HE WOULD A DIED ANYHOW . WITH THE OTHERS ..ALL THE OTHERS. T-THEY RE DAID NOW, AIN'T THEY, BREEN?

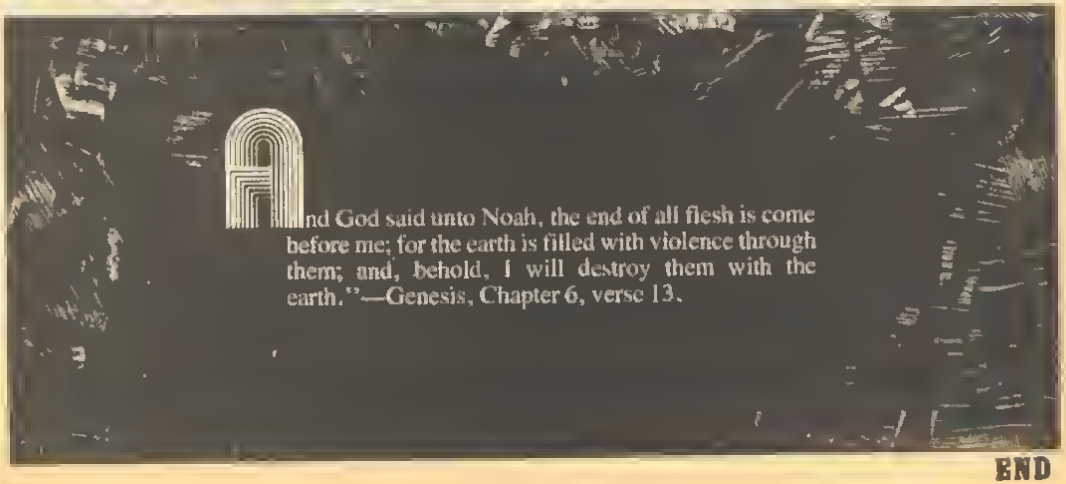

VERY SOON NOW, I'M AFRAID BLACKOUT'S DUE ANY SECOND BUT WE MADE T WE--
BREEN! BREEN!

MISSILES! MY GAWD! THAIR GONNA--


KREEBLAAMMM

KAWHAMMM




And God said unto Noah, the end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth."—Genesis, Chapter 6, verse 13.

END

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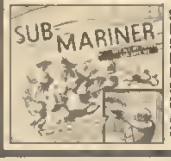

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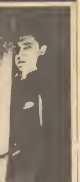
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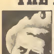

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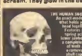

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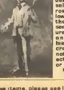

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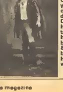

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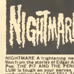

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FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE WOLFMAN

High in the Carpathian Mountains a mad scientist works to revive the Frankenstein monster and he succeeds in time for the living corpse to do battle with a tempest wolfman. Lightning, fangs, and action galore. Fight between the monsters is one of horror dimdoms finest. Stars Lugosi as Frankenstein and Chaney as Wolfman. #2227/$9 95 SUPER 8 ONLY

DOOM OF DRACULA

Boris Karloff portrays a carnival owner who locates the remains of Count Dracula. He brings the vampire back to life, and sends him on an utterly diabolical mission. Soon, however Karloff realizes he has made a mistake, as Dracula turns on him! John Carradine plays Dracula. Sequel is House of Frankenstein film #2246/$9 95

THE INVISIBLE MAN

This is it! The original motion picture featuring HG Wells' classic character. This effort introduced the great Claude Rains to the industry. Startling special effects by John P Fulton which show men who becomes transparent due to scientific experiments. A chilling, absorbing film, one of the all-time greats #2237/$9 95

HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN

Follow-up feature to "Doom of Dracula." Karloff stars as scientist disguised as Carny owner who is journeying the world-over in search of the Frankenstein monster. And finally he finds it ... returning it to life. But then, trouble! For the Wolf man arrives on the scene to destroy the doctor and his new patient #2247/$9 95 Sup 8 only

THE "ORIGINAL" MUMMY

SOLD OUT

One of Karloff's most memorable performances one of the great horror films. Excavation in Egypt uncovers tomb of Mummy he he lep. That night he comes back to life. After murdering one of the scientists, the bandaged beast makes for London. There he seeks the reincarnation of his one-time Egyptian mistress. Film is in the-TOPS! #2224/$9 95

THE MUMMY'S GHOST

Here is an exciting sequel to "The Mummy." Lon Chaney portrays the man of rolled cloth as he terrorizes a scientific gathering about his sacred sarcophagus and as fate would have it he fads for the young lady scientist who is a part of this expedition. This Mummy is more brutal more deadly than the Karloff one #2269/$9 95

FRANKENSTEIN'S NEW BRAIN

The flawed criminal brain of the monster is removed and into the huge body Igor's brain is inserted. He speaks moves and all seems well until the monster goes blind. In a rage he wrecks his creator's lab! Scary! #22087/$9 95

I WAS A TEENAGE WEREWOLF

One of the most popular monster movies in history. A young boy visits a psychiatrist for to solve his various hang ups. But the doctor himself is deranged and hypnotizes the boy. Under hypnosis the young man is convinced by the psychiatrist that he is a werewolf! Then, it's all to kill for the doctor! #2221/$9 95

THE TRIAL OF FRANKENSTEIN

The famous Frankenstein monster is revived in an amazing fashion via a brain transplant. Igor the hunchback gives his brain to the creature. This film is taken from the classical movie "Ghost of Frankenstein" #22086/$9 95

RETURN OF DRACULA

Dracula is back in the form of actor Charles Lederer. The Count moves into a small isolated town and begins to live as a parasite sucking the blood of the plain country folk around him. All goes well ... until the infamous monster is found out ... and hunted. One of the most unusual Dracula films ever produced. A must! #2273/$9 95

MAN-MADE MONSTER

A team up of two great horror actors. Lionel Atwill portrays a mad scientist and Lon Chaney a truck driver killed in an accident. Atwill discovers the body and through the use of high voltage electricity, brings Chaney back to life. But the truck driver is no longer human. He's become an electric monstrosity! #2264 $9 95

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

A classic of filmmaking. The second filming of Hugo's immortal novel stars Charles Laughton as the horribly misshapen hunchback called Quasimodo. This brilliant film tells of the beast's love for a beauty. The gypsy Esmeralda and the horrors that befall the young girl in the France of yore. A sensitive monster movie #2234/$9 95 SUPER 8 ONLY

TASTE THE BLOOD OF DRACULA

Many fans of horror films consider Christopher Lee the finest screen Dracula and in this film his awesome talent is in evidence. Tall, violent and menacing. Lee is the immortal count. Here he travels from Transylvania to London. His plan is to ravage four respectable families in the great city. And this he does brutally! #2265/$9 95

STRAIT-JACKET

Joan Crawford, star of "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane" joined with "Rosemary's Baby" Bill Castle to create this modern day horror classic. This film is not for the faint hearted, as it is about a series of brutal axe-murders. Is Crawford victim or killer? Warning: vicious axe killings appear in this film. A real shocker! #2266 $9 95

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS

Peter Lorre stars in this incredible film of a concert pianist. So far not very frightening. But when he is possessed by devilish madness his gentle hands become instruments of vile murder and then is unleashed the incredible Beast With Five Fingers. Lorre at his horrific best with a fine supporting cast #22304/$9 95

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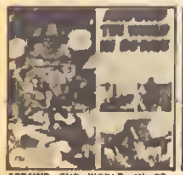

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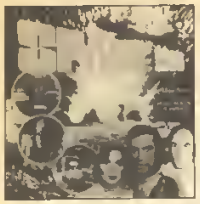

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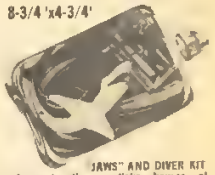

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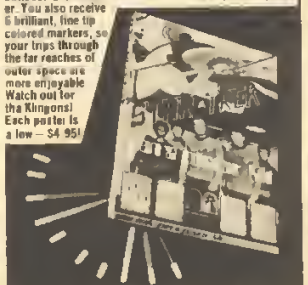

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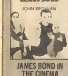

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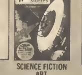

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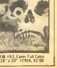

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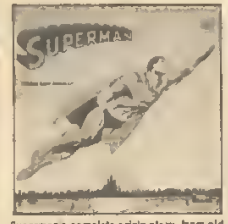

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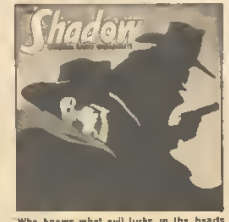

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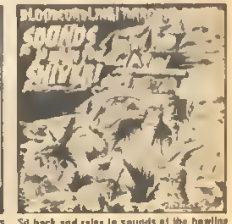

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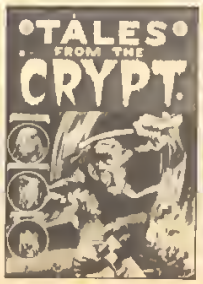

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